

COMPETITION TRIBUNAL REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Case No: CR011Apr19/SA0 In the matter between:		
The Competition Com	Applicant	
And		
Mix Telematics International (Pty) Ltd		Respondent
Panel	: M Mazwai (Presiding Member: A Ndoni (Tribunal Member): G Budlender (Tribunal Member	
Heard on	: 27 June 2024	
Decided on	: 27 June 2024	
	Settlement Agreement	
	confirms the settlement agreement petition Commission and Mix Telematinarked "A".	
Magnal		27 June 2024
Presiding Member Ms Mondo Mazwai		Date

Concurring: Ms Andiswa Ndoni and Adv. Geoff Budlender SC

RECEIVEDBy Themba Chauke at 4:54 pm, Apr 29, 2024

IN THE COMPETITION TRIBUNAL OF SOUTH AFRICA (HELD IN PRETORIA)

CT Case No:CR011APR19

CC Case No:2016Nov0601

In the matter between

COMPETITION COMMISSION

APPLICANT

and

MIX TELEMATICS INTERNATIONAL (PTY) LTD

RESPONDENT

CONSENT AGREEMENT IN TERMS OF SECTION 49D AS READ WITH SECTIONS 58(1)(a)(iii) AND 58(1)(b) OF THE COMPETITION ACT, NO. 89 OF 1998, AS AMENDED, BETWEEN THE COMPETITION COMMISSION AND MIX TELEMATICS INTERNATIONAL PROPRIETARY LIMITED (MIX TELEMATICS), IN RESPECT OF ALLEGED CONTRAVENTIONS OF SECTION 4(1)(b)(ii) OF THE COMPETITION ACT, 1998, AS AMENDED

The Competition Commission and MiX Telematics hereby agree that an application be made to the Competition Tribunal for the confirmation of this Consent Agreement as an order of the Tribunal in terms of section 49D read with section 58(1)(a)(lii) and 58(1)(b) of the Competition Act, No. 89 of 1998, as amended, in respect of alleged contraventions of section 4(1)(b)(ii) of the Act, on the terms set out below.

1. **DEFINITIONS**

For the purposes of this Consent Agreement, the following definitions shall apply:

1.1. "Act" means the Competition Act, No. 89 of 1998, as amended:

- 1.2. "Basic product" means the combination of black box and basic software (delivered as Software as a Service) which is sold by MiX Telematics to the MiX Dealers. MiX Telematics manufactures and supplies vehicle tracking hardware (black box or computer box) and also develops vehicle tracking software that gives real time vehicle tracking data and performs other functions;
- 1.3. "Commission" means the Competition Commission of South Africa, a statutory body established in terms of section 19 of the Act, with its principal business address at 1st Floor, Mulayo Building (Block C), the DTI Campus, 77 Meintjies Street, Sunnyside, Pretoria, Gauteng;
- 1.4. "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Competition Commission, appointed in terms of section 22 of the Act;
- 1.5. "Complaint" means the complaint initiated by the Commissioner in terms of section 49B(1) of the Act under case number: 2016Nov0601;
- 1.6. "Consent Agreement" means this Agreement duly signed and concluded between the Commission and MiX Telematics in full and final settlement of Commission case number 2016Nov0601:
- 1.7. "Day" means any calendar day other than a Saturday, a Sunday or an official public holiday in South Africa;
- 1.8. "MIX Dealer" means any firm that purchases the Basic product from MiX Telematics;
- 1.9. "MIX Telematics" means MiX Telematics International Proprietary Limited, a private company duly registered and incorporated under the laws of South Africa, with its principal place of business situated at Blaauwklip Office Park, 2 cnr Strand & Webersvallel Streets, Stellenbosch, Western Cape;
- 1.10. "Parties" means the Commission and MiX Telematics;
- 1.11. "Value added fleet management products" means the adaptation of the

Basic product (including through the addition of peripheral equipment or services), by either MiX Telematics or any MiX Dealer, into various customised fleet management packages in accordance with the specific requirements of end user customers;

1.12. "Tribunal" means the Competition Tribunal of South Africa, a statutory body established in terms of section 26 of the Act, with its principal place of business at 1st Floor, Mulayo Bullding (Block C), the DTI Campus, 77 Meintjies Street, Sunnyside, Pretoria, Gauteng.

2. THE COMMISSION'S INVESTIGATION AND FINDINGS

- 2.1 On 08 November 2016, the Commissioner of the Competition Commission Initiated a complaint against MiX Telematics and various MiX Dealers for allegedly dividing the markets by allocating customers in the market for the supply of value-added fleet management solutions to the end user customers in contravention of section 4(1)(b)(ii) of the Act. This complaint was investigated under case number 2016Nov0601.
- 2.2 The Commission investigation found that from around 1998 MiX Telematics; Fleetco SA; Carrus Information Technologies; Hyper Auto; Soltrack and Tecta Telematics ("the Respondents") agreed not to compete with each other for customers in the market for the supply of value-added fleet management solutions to the end user customers. The Commission alleged that the agreement between the Respondents entailed the following:
 - 2.2.1 They agreed that MiX Telematics must not approach the MiX Dealers' customers:
 - 2.2.2 They agreed on the concept of ring fencing of prospective customers. This concept entailed MIX Telematics not competing with the MiX Dealers in the negotiation of contracts with prospective customers, including an understanding that MiX Telematics shall not market its

- Basic product and Value added fleet management products to customers of MiX Dealers;
- 2.2.3 In order to achieve this, MiX Dealers were required to disclose to MiX Telematics a list of all their customers including prospective customers. This disclosure would enable MiX Telematics to know which customers not to approach; and
- 2.2.4 They held regular meetings to discuss amongst others compliance with their agreement to not compete for each other's customers.
- 2.3 The Commission concluded that above conduct between the Respondents amounts to an agreement to divide the market by allocating customers in contravention of section 4(1)(b)(il) of the Act.

3. ADMISSION OF LIABILITY

3.1. MiX Telematics does not admit liability in respect of the conduct described in paragraph 2 above.

4. AGREEMENT REGARDING FUTURE CONDUCT

- 4.1. MIX Telematics agrees and undertakes to:
 - 4.1.1 Refrain from engaging in any conduct that may be in contravention of section 4(1)(b) of the Act, and from engaging in any prohibited practice in future;
 - 4.1.2 Specifically, MiX Telematics also agrees and undertakes to refrain from any discussions, or entering into any arrangements, with MiX Dealers, its dealers about Value added fleet management products that may be offered to customers by any MiX Dealer (or MIX Telematics as the case may be) which may, or reasonably could, result in any allocation of any Value added fleet management products to a particular MiX Dealer or MiX Telematics.

- 4.1.3 This undertaking excludes legitimate interactions between MiX Telematics and MiX Dealers in regard to the provision of "secondary and tertiary level support" (this means the support provided by MiX Telematics to the MiX Dealer).
- 4.1.4 Prepare and circulate a statement summarising the content of this Consent Agreement to its employees, managers and directors within 30 (thirty) days of the date of confirmation of this Consent Agreement as an order of the Tribunal;
- 4.1.5 Develop, implement, and monitor a competition law compliance programme as part of its corporate governance policy, which is designed to ensure that its employees, management, directors, and agents do not engage in future contraventions of the Act. In particular, such compliance programme should include mechanisms for the identification, prevention, detection and monitoring of any contravention of the Act; and
- 4.1.6 Submit a copy of such compliance programme to the Commission within60 (sixty) days of the date of confirmation of this Consent Agreement as an order by the Tribunal.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTY

- 5.1. MiX Telematics agrees and undertakes to pay an administrative penalty in the amount of R250,000.00 (**Two hundred and fifty thousand rand**). This amount does not exceed 10% of MiX Telematics' annual turnover for the financial year ended 31 March 2018.
- 5.2. MiX Telematics will pay the amount of the administrative penalty set out in paragraph 5.1 above to the Commission within 30 (thirty) days of this Consent Agreement being confirmed as an order of the Tribunal.
- 5.3. The payment shall be made into the Commission's bank account, details of which are as follows:

Bank name:

Absa Bank

Branch name:

Pretoria

Account holder:

Competition Commission Fees Account

Account number: 4087641778

Account type:

Current Account

Branch Code:

632005

Reference:

2016Nov0601/MIX

5.4. The penalty will then be paid over by the Commission to the National Revenue Fund in accordance with section 59(4) of the Act.

6. **FULL AND FINAL SETTLEMENT**

For MiX Telematics International (Pty) Ltd

This Consent Agreement, upon confirmation as an order of the Tribunal, is entered into in full and final settlement and concludes all proceedings between the Commission and MiX Telematics relating to the conduct that is the subject matter of the Commission investigation under Case No. 2016Nov0601 and Tribunal case number CR011Apr19.

Dated and signed at Midvine on the 23 day of April	_2024
Chief Executive Officer Mix Telematics International (Pty) Ltd Name in Full:	
For the Commission Dated and signed at Pretoria on the 26th day of April	_2024
Doris Tshepe Commissioner	