

MEDIA RELEASE

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Competition Commission raids offices of six suppliers of fire control and protection systems in Gauteng

Today, the Commission is conducting a search and seizure (dawn raid) operation at the premises of Belfa Fire; Cross Fire Management (Pty) Ltd; Fire Control Systems (Pty) Ltd; QD Air (Pty) Ltd, Technological Fire Innovations (Pty) Ltd and Fireco (Pty) Ltd. All the firms are based in Gauteng and are active in the market for the supply of fire control and protection systems which include the installation and maintenance of automatic sprinkler systems, hydrants, hose reels and extinguishers.

The dawn raid operation forms part of the Commission's ongoing investigation into alleged collusive conduct in the market for the provision of fire control and protection systems. The firms allegedly collude when bidding for tenders for the provision of fire control and protection systems. The Commission has reasonable grounds to believe that information relevant to this investigation is in the premises of the firms.

The Commission is conducting the operation with due regard to the rights of the firms and all the affected persons. During the search the Commission will seize documents and electronic data, which will be analysed together with other information gathered to determine whether a contravention of the Competition Act has taken place.

In terms of section 48 of the Competition Act, the Commission is authorised to enter and search premises and seize documents which have a bearing on an investigation. The Commission duly obtained warrants authorizing it to search the offices of the firms at the High Court of South Africa, Gauteng Division, Pretoria.

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