

## SIMPLIFIED NOTIFICATION OF A CONCENTRATION

BETWEEN

**Archer Norge AS**

AND

**Well Machining AS**

**Well Connection Norway AS**

**30 June 2025**

***Contains business secrets***

*Business secrets for Archer is marked in green*

*Business secrets for WM and WCN are marked in yellow*

## 1 CONTACT INFORMATION

### 1.1 Notifying party

Name: Archer Norge AS  
Company reg. no.: 991 478 450  
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Contact person: Advokatfirmaet Thommessen AS  
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### 1.2 Target 1

Name: Well Machining AS  
Company reg no.: 813 194 392  
Address: Storemyra 279, 5954 Mongstad  
Postal address: Finnestadjordet 10, 4029 Stavanger

### 1.3 Target 2

Name: Well Connection Norway AS  
Company reg no.: 947 393 103  
Address: Finnestadjordet 10, 4029 Stavanger  
Postal address: Finnestadjordet 10, 4029 Stavanger

Contact person: Halvor Hanevik  
Address: Storemyra 279, 5954 Mongstad  
Telephone: 930 98 140  
E-mail address: [hh@wellconnection.no](mailto:hh@wellconnection.no)

## 2 TYPE OF CONCENTRATION AND BACKGROUND

This simplified notification is filed pursuant to Section 18 cf. Section 17 of the Norwegian Competition Act on behalf of Archer Norge AS ("**Archer Norge**") in connection with Archer Norge's acquisition of 100% of the shares in Well Machining AS and Well Connection Norway AS (referred to as "**WM**" and "**WCM**", respectively, or jointly referred to as the "**Companies**") (the "**Transaction**"). Archer Norge and the Companies are jointly referred to as the "**Parties**".

The Transaction entails that Archer Norge will obtain control over the Companies on a lasting basis, cf. Section 17 of the Norwegian Competition Act. Archer Norge's acquisition of shares in WCN and WM, respectively, are conditional upon each other and therefore constitute one concentration of undertakings pursuant to the Norwegian Competition Act.

The rationale of the Transaction is that



The Transaction is subject to a merger notification in Norway pursuant to Section 18 cf. Section 17 of the Norwegian Competition Act, as each of the undertakings concerned achieved a turnover in 2024 exceeds NOK 100 million and their combined turnover exceeded NOK 1 billion in Norway in 2024.

The Transaction is not subject to merger control notifications in other jurisdictions than Norway.

### **3 THE CONDITIONS FOR SUBMITTING SIMPLIFIED NOTIFICATION ARE SATISFIED**

The Transaction qualifies for a simplified notification in accordance with Section 3 first paragraph item 3 letter b) of the Regulation on the Notification of Concentrations. As further explained below, there is a minor horizontal and vertical relation between the Parties, but the Parties' individual and joint market share is well below 20%.

### **4 THE STRUCTURE AND BUSINESS AREAS OF THE UNDERTAKINGS**

#### **4.1 Notifying party**

##### *4.1.1 Legal and organizational structure*

Archer Norge is a private limited liability company incorporated in Norway. Archer Norge is a wholly owned subsidiary of Archer Limited (together with all subsidiaries, "**Archer**"), an exempted, limited company incorporated under the laws of Bermuda, with registration number 40612 and registered office at Par la Ville Place, 14 Par la Ville Road, Hamilton HM 08, Bermuda. Archer Limited is listed on the Oslo Stock Exchange under the ticker ARCH.

Archer operates primarily in Norway, the United Kingdom and Argentina, but also has operations in Asia, Oceania, Eastern Europe, North America, South America, the Middle East and Africa. Archer currently has approximately 5,037 employees globally.

In Norway, the Archer Group has five wholly owned registered subsidiaries: Archer Norge, Archer AS, Archer Oiltools AS, and Archer Consulting AS.

An overview of all Archer's subsidiaries and other investments may be found in its annual report, see section 8 below.

#### 4.1.2 *Areas of business*

Archer Norge provides drilling services, well integrity and intervention, plug and abandonment and decommissioning to its upstream oil and gas clients, and operates in 40 locations.

Archer's operations are managed through three segments: Platform Operations, Well Services and Land Drilling:

- **Platform Operations:** The Platform Operations segment includes the divisions: platform drilling, engineering and the modular rigs. Within platform drilling, Archer offers personnel and processes for drilling and other technical operations on 33 offshore platforms, predominantly in the North Sea. Within engineering, Archer offers lifecycle engineering services encompassing project management, construction and installations, multidiscipline engineering, consulting and inspection. The modular rigs division consist of modular drilling through Archer's two modular offshore platforms.
- **Well Services:** The global Well Services capabilities include a wide range of products and services for well imaging, well integrity, production logging, well interventions, wellbore and blowout preventer clean outs, casing cutting and sidetracks, temporary or permanent plugging and abandonments, and decommissioning, all of which are aimed at improving well performance and extending well life, while reducing overall service operating time. Archer supports customers in critical processes such as well construction, well completion, well intervention and well plugging and abandonment. The differentiated technologies in wellbore imaging, well construction and well integrity are an important and integral part of Archer's strategy to support customers in delivering better wells. Archer has over time developed and invested in both well plug and abandonment services and technologies.
- **Land Drilling:** Archer's services within Land Drilling consist of land drilling with a fleet of owned land rigs and workover units in Argentina.

As mentioned above, Archer primarily operates in Norway through five subsidiaries<sup>1</sup>:

- Archer Norge is the owner of all Archer subsidiaries in Norway. It operates in platform operations, engineering services, and well services. The company holds various contracts and is the employer for the majority of Archer's onshore employees working in Norway.

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<sup>1</sup> Archer Norge also owns 60% of Archer Elemental Norway AS (reg. no. 834 540 312), a joint venture for engineering P&A projects performed by Archer, and 20% of dSolve AS (reg. no. 929 234 367), a technology company where Archer will develop and commercialize its IPs for well applications.

- Archer AS operates in platform drilling, engineering services, and wireline operations. The company holds, among others, the contracts for the provision of mechanical wireline operation services to ConocoPhillips and Equinor. The majority of Archer's employees working offshore in Norway are employed by Archer AS.<sup>2</sup>
- Archer Oiltools AS provides all services to Archer's divisions within the Oiltools division in Norway (including customer contracts). Archer Oiltools delivers a range of technologies designed to deliver better wells by extending the well's lifespan, maximising well performance, and reducing environmental impact. Oiltools' product portfolio includes, among others, plugs & plug solutions, permanent plugging solutions for wells (P&A), cementing solutions, and well cleaning services. All employees within these divisions are also employed by Archer Oiltools AS.
- Archer Consulting AS provides consultancy services to operator companies on the Norwegian Continental Shelf, as well as some secondments to the other Norwegian companies within Archer.
- Vertikal Service AS is owned 65% by Archer Norge. Vertikal Service offers inspection, installation, and maintenance services to energy customers using advanced industrial rope access techniques on complex structures such as offshore and onshore wind turbines, hydropower stations, and offshore oil and gas installations. After the acquisition of Vertikal Service AS, Archer is also active within services to wind or hydropower installations.
- Archer Wind AS is owned 100% by Archer Norge. Archer Wind is a technology, product, and solutions provider for the Floating Offshore Wind industry, established for the purpose of performing engineering, fabrication and assembly of offshore floating wind foundations.

More information can be found at <https://www.archerwell.com/>.

## **4.2 Well Machining AS and Well Connection Norway AS**

### *4.2.1 Legal and organizational structure*

Well Machining AS and Well Connection Norway AS are private limited liability companies incorporated in Norway. The companies are today wholly owned subsidiaries of Wellconnection Group AS (reg. no. 915 433 030), which is 56% owned by Storemyra Holding AS (reg. no. 915 525 938), a private limited liability company wholly owned by Wellconnection Evpe Group Holding AS (reg. no. 917 096 309). Wellconnection Evpe Group Holding AS is wholly owned by Energy Ventures Private Equity V L.

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<sup>2</sup> We note that Bergen Technology Center AS and Archer Integrated Services AS were merged into Archer AS in 2023.

WCN and WM has no subsidiaries, but WCN has registered departments in (i) Randaberg, (ii) Stavanger and (iii) Mongstad, and has 63 employees.

WM is located in Mongstad and has 1 employee.

## 4.2.2 Areas of business

WCN provide a broad range of inspection, maintenance and repair services for drilling in the Norwegian sectors of the North Sea to oil and gas platforms. This includes hydrocleaning and other drill pipe services, and engineering services for product development. WCN is also a supplier of licensed tubular connection repairs in Norway. WCN's main customer is [REDACTED]

WM provides services related to maintenance, service and sales of drilling equipment. WM does not have any customer relationships and its only purpose is to maintain NOV thread licenses on behalf of WCN.

For the purposes of this notification, the business of WCN will be referred to hereafter as WM's business is not horizontally or vertically linked with Archer's scope of business.

More information about WM and WCN can be found at <https://wellconnection.no/services/>

## 5 TURNOVER AND OPERATING RESULT IN NORWAY FOR THE LAST FISCAL YEAR (2024)

Name	Turnover (in thousand NOK)	Operating result (in thousand NOK)
Archer	5 943 820	323 000
Well Machining AS	N/A	N/A
Well Connection Norway AS	[REDACTED]	

## 6 NO AFFECTED MARKETS

### 6.1.1 Parties' overlapping activities

As stated above, Archer is active within a broad range of services. Relevant for this notification are Archer's services relating to its engineering activities and drilling operation services to existing oil and gas platforms. Archer regularly hires in services from temporary work agencies etc. for its engineering and platform drilling operations. This may include services from companies specialising in a specific task or service, e.g. drill pipe services. Archer uses drill pipe service suppliers for various aspects of its general maintenance scope of work offshore.

WCN provides inspection, maintenance and repair services for drilling and subsea in the Norwegian sector of the North Sea for oil and gas platforms. WCN also provide licensed tubular connection repairs

and manufacturing in Norway, as well as hydrocleaning to the North Sea. WCN has performed drill pipe handling for Archer Norge at its location in Mongstad, and has previously serviced Archer in Stavanger until the business was shut down in 2024.

## 6.1.2 *Relevant market*

The European Commission ("**Commission**") has previously assessed a market for maintenance, modification and operation ("**MMO**") services to existing oil and gas platforms over the entire lifetime of a developed field. The Commission has considered that the geographical scope of the MMO services market is the Norwegian Continental Shelf.<sup>3</sup>

Interpreted broadly, the Parties may be considered to be active in the overall market for maintenance, modification and operation services to oil and gas platforms. This market has not been further segmented in past decisional practice, and the Parties are not aware that the Commission or the Norwegian Competition Authority has previously assessed separate markets for hydrocleaning services, tubular connection repairs or drill pipe services to oil and gas platforms.

For the purpose of this notification, it is not necessary to conclude on the relevant market. A further segmentation of the market for MMO services would not result in any overlap between the Parties' activities as only WCN provides drill pipe services.

## 6.1.3 *The competitive assessment of the Transaction*

The potential overlap between Archer and WCN's services can therefore be assessed as the provision of MMO services to existing oil and gas platforms. Archer's estimated market share for MMO services on the Norwegian Continental Shelf is below 3%.<sup>4</sup> WCN is a marginal player in the same market, with an estimated market share of <1 %.<sup>5</sup>

The Parties therefore have a combined market share well below 20%.

## 6.2 **The Parties' main competitors, customers and suppliers in an overall market for MMO services to existing platforms on the Norwegian Continental Shelf**

An overview of the Parties' main competitors, customers and suppliers in an overall market for MMO services to existing platforms on the Norwegian Continental Shelf is provided in the tables below, cf. the Norwegian Regulation on the Notification of Concentration section 3 second paragraph, litra d.

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<sup>3</sup> COMP/M.7316 - DET NORSKE OLJESELSKAP/MARATHON OIL NORGE.

<sup>4</sup> The market shares have been calculated using a total market based on the [Norwegian Offshore Directorate's overview](#) of operating costs on the Norwegian Continental Shelf. The MMO market (with the categories: ordinary operating costs, maintenance excl. wells and modifications) was approximately NOK 50 billion in 2024. The annual turnover for Archer' total oil and gas related engineering business was approximately NOK 1,3 billion in 2024, see page 33 in [Annual Report 2024](#).

<sup>5</sup> Calculations based on annual turnover.

**Table 1: Archer's main competitors, customers and suppliers in the market for MMO services to existing platforms on the Norwegian Continental Shelf**

Competitors	Customers	Suppliers

**Table 2: WCN's main competitors, customers and suppliers in an overall market for MMO services to existing platforms on the Norwegian Continental Shelf**

Competitors	Customers	Suppliers

## 7 VERTICAL EFFECTS

As stated above, Archer regularly hires agencies to specific services, e.g. drill pipe services where WCN has been used as a supplier at Archer's location in Mongstad. The Parties are therefore vertically linked in services related to drill pipe handling to existing oil and gas platforms. There are multiple suppliers of similar services in the offshore oil and gas market that Archer can use for its offshore scopes of work, including [REDACTED]



Furthermore, the majority of WCN's turnover (approximately [REDACTED]) originates from hires of Archer in relation to drill pipe services. Consequently, the Transaction will not have any adverse effects on competition for companies requesting drill pipe services, as WCN already primarily supply Archer. In any event, the minor market shares of the Parties exclude any potential adverse effects on competition in any markets.

## **8 ANNUAL REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Archer's annual reports are available at <https://www.archerwell.com/investor-relations/annual-reports/>.

We note that Parties' Annual Reports and Financial Statements can be found at Brønnøysundregisteret.

## **9 DISCLOSURE/PUBLIC ACCESS**

This notification contains business secrets, cf. Section 18 b of the Competition Act. A proposal for a public version of the notification is enclosed. Enclosed is also an overview which explains why each type of redacted information constitutes business secrets. This explanation document is also considered as business secrets in its entirety.

Appendix 1: Public version of the notification

Appendix 2: Justification of business secrets

In the event that the notification or other documents in the case are not published on the Competition Authority's website, we kindly ask to be notified should the Competition Authority receive any requests for access to such documents.

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Best regards

Advokatfirmaet Thommessen AS



Heidi Jorkjend

Advokat