

# Irish Times completes acquisition of Landmark titles

CIARAN HANCOCK Business Editor

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Business Editor

The Irish Times has acquired all of the publishing and media interests of the Cork-based Landmark Media group, which owns the *Irish Examiner* newspaper and other titles.

In a statement to employees yesterday, The Irish Times said it “looks forward to working closely with all staff in the combined companies in building a successful media group”.

The company said its objective was to create a “dynamic and vibrant business” that could “sustain itself for the longer term and where the respective media assets – national, regional and radio – will contribute significantly to the Irish media market”.

It said the combined scale provided “opportunities for consolidation, to secure existing revenues and will provide a platform to build and grow new digital readers and revenues”.

The “core identity and independence” of the respective news titles will be retained.

“The overall increase in audience allows the group to build a digital platform with a strong reach, countrywide and internationally,” The Irish Times told staff. “The consolidation also presents the opportunity to strengthen and grow existing print advertising revenues and helps to secure contract print revenues.” The Irish Times is “fully committed” to working

with the respective union groups in each company on restructuring in the combined group and will look to meet staff representatives as soon as possible”.

### Challenging

In a statement, Séamus Dooley, Irish Secretary of the National Union of Journalists, said: “We welcome the commitment of the new owners to honour existing agreements and to work in a collaborative way with the trade unions. In a challenging

time for the media industry, the acquisition by The Irish Times is a welcome development.”

Landmark publishes two daily titles – the *Irish Examiner* and the *Evening Echo*, and seven weekly regional papers (the *Waterford News & Star*, the *Roscommon Herald*, the *Western People*, the *Nationalist*, the *Kildare Nationalist*, the *Laois Nationalist*, and the *Naas and Newbridge Nationalist*).

It also has interests in three local radio stations – 75 per cent

in both WLR and Beat, and 17.6 per cent in Red FM in Cork. Its online activities comprise [breakingnews.ie](http://breakingnews.ie), [irishexaminer.com](http://irishexaminer.com), [recruitireland.com](http://recruitireland.com) and [benchwarmers.ie](http://benchwarmers.ie).

The agreement between The Irish Times and Landmark was signed on December 5th, and was later approved by the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission, Minister for Communications Denis Naughton, and the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland.