

The CNMC opens disciplinary proceedings against several companies for bid rigging relating to military equipment.

- The competition authority investigates bid rigging and sharing agreements in tenders called in Spain for the supply, maintenance and upgrade of military equipment.
- In June and November, the CNMC conducted on-site inspections at the offices of the companies included in the proceedings.

Madrid, 30 December 2021.- The CNMC initiated disciplinary proceedings against Hernando Moreno, S.L.U. (COHEMO), Casli, S.A. (CASLI) and, for its joint and several liability, its parent, Inversiones Certin 5, S.L. (IC5), in addition to Grupo de Ingeniería, Reconstrucción y Recambios JPG, S.A. (JPG) and Star Defence Logistics & Engineering, S.L. (SDLE), for potential anti-competitive practices involving bid rigging and sharing agreements in tenders called in Spain for the supply, maintenance and upgrade of military equipment ([S/0008/21](#)).

On 9 and 10 June, the CNMC conducted on-site inspections at the offices of Comercial Hernando Moreno, S.L.U. and Star Defence Logistics & Engineering, S.L. Then, on 3 and 4 November 2021, it inspected Casli, S.A. and Grupo de Ingeniería, Reconstrucción y Recambios JPG, S.A. ([press release](#))

Based on the information gathered, the Competition Department has opened disciplinary proceedings. The case must be investigated and resolved within a period of 18 months, though the opening of proceedings does not prejudice the final outcome of the investigation.

Investigating cartels is one of the CNMC's top priorities, given the serious consequences they can have on consumers and on the proper functioning of the markets.

Among other instruments, the Commission has a [Leniency Programme](#), whereby companies involved in a cartel can receive immunity from paying fines by coming forward with evidence to help the CNMC detect cartels. Moreover, the prohibition on contracting laid down in article 72.5 of Law 9/2017 on public sector contracts would be waived for those companies if they were sanctioned.