

Big Air (BGL) 19c (trading halt); Clever Communications (CVA) 7.3c

Like Kate and Will's pending nuptials, the merger of this fixed wireless network duo is a marriage made in heaven in that both parties are compatible, albeit a wee bit small to be stand-alone listed companies.

Deploying its superior market cap, Big Air is offering 0.35c of its own shares and 1.82c cash for every Clever share. Unlike two years ago when Clever tried to take over Big Air, the deal is more civil than a royal garden party. Both companies service business and government locations in all the usual metro (and other) locations, but there's a key difference in that Big Air is weighted to Sydney, while Clever is biased to Melbourne.

It's tempting to portray the deal as bulking up ahead of the National Broadband Network. However, Big Air chief Jason Ashton is more agnostic.

"Our network will sit beside the NBN," he says.

"And if the NBN doesn't happen we will compete with ADSL (internet) and copper."

Just as Kate the commoner has the blessing from the in-laws, Clever's biggest holder, Microequities, has endorsed the union.

"Our view of Clever is that it was too small to justify the cost of being listed," says Microequities' Carlos Gil. "It hasn't been a happy time for Clever shareholders over the last decade but this deal provides a lot of upside."

Gil estimates the merged duo could save \$600,000-\$800,000 of annual listing expenses, with operating savings "north of \$1 million".

Clever Clever holders should take up the offer in view of retaining a holding in the bigger Big Air.