



CANAL+ ACQUIRES SKY DEUTSCHLAND



Canal + is planning to acquire Sky Deutschland and is in talks with other investors for the same.

Canal+, part of French media company Vivendi, could participate in a consortium which includes German telecommunications provider United Internet. Canal+ would contribute its pay-TV experience and content assets to the venture while United Internet would add broadband and mobile access.

In Austria, Canal+ collaborates with telco A1 Telekom Austria. A joint venture with United Internet as part of a Sky Deutschland acquisition would resemble this strategy in Germany. Canal+ is already present in the German market with its movies production business Studiocanal and with M7 Deutschland, a provider of TV channels and services to cable and IPTV network operators.

Comcast considers selling Sky Deutschland, suggesting that the German pay-tv business could be valued at around €1 billion.

NEW MERGER FOR ALBTELECOM & ONE TELECOM



One Telecommunications and ALBtelecom have merged to become ONE Albania as of January 1.

News of the move was given by Emil Georgakiev, the CEO of ONE Albania, in a year-end message addressed to customers and partners. In it, he said, “as part of (Hungary’s) 4iG Group, ONE Albania will not only offer quality fixed and mobile services, but will play a central role in IT services and the digitalisation of society”.

Georgakiev added: “for us, this is just the beginning of a new journey, which includes investments for mobile coverage with 5G and fibre technology of Albania in 2023. Improving the experience of our customers is the main priority and we will do our best to deliver it. We will continue to work hard to provide an even stronger, faster and more reliable mobile network, improved fiber coverage and services, becoming a key player in the digitalisation of Albania”.

RUSSIAN WAR HASTENS ERICSSON’S EXIT



ERICSSON

The Russia - Ukraine war has hastened the exit of Ericsson from Russia.

Ericsson’s wholly owned Russian subsidiary has entered into an asset transfer agreement to divest its local customer support business in the country to a Russian company owned by former operational managers of Ericsson’s Russian subsidiary.

According to Ericsson, the transaction includes a transfer of approximately 40 employees, and certain assets and contracts related to the business.

It adds that the customer support business is a local business engagement that does not involve the export of hardware, software, or related services to mobile operators in Russia.

Following Russia’s invasion in Ukraine, Ericsson announced the suspension of operations and deliveries to customers in Russia and an orderly wind-down in accordance with applicable sanctions. Approximately 400 Ericsson employees in Russia have been notified of layoffs and have been leaving the company as operations have been discontinued. ■



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