

Dish: Bid for Sprint Still Under Consideration

Dish Network's \$25.5 billion bid for Sprint is still in play, according to a statement released today.

Dish released the statement, saying it was "in response to media inquiries about the current state of play regarding its proposal to merge with the Sprint Nextel Corporation."

Dish called its bid, issued on April 15, 2013, a "formal proposal," noting that the company believes it is both economically and strategically superior to the one offered by SoftBank, which has proposed a \$21.5 billion purchase of a 70 percent stake in Sprint.

"Dish and Sprint continue to meet regularly and conduct the due diligence process that began in late May," the company said. "In addition, Dish and Sprint continue to negotiate the terms of a merger agreement."

Dish Network recently complicated things with a bid for Clearwire, raising its bid for the company to \$4.40 per share, representing a 29 percent premium over the revised offer of \$3.40 per share Sprint submitted to the internet wholesaler.

In a letter sent to Clearwire shareholders, Dish Chairman Charlie Ergen said his company was prepared to "de-link [Dish's] proposed acquisition of 40 MHz of [Clearwire's] BRS and EBS spectrum," in the terms of the new bid.

While Sprint mulls its options, Softbank this week [said](#) [1] it would consider an offer to buy Deutsche Telekom's T-Mobile USA business if its proposed deal with Sprint falls through.

Sprint shareholders are scheduled to vote on SoftBank's offer this week. Bloomberg reported that Sprint was considering postponing the June 12 vote but Sprint has indicated the vote is on track.

Source URL (retrieved on 06/11/2013 - 12:27pm):

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Published on Wireless Week (<http://www.wirelessweek.com>)
