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Fewer than 1 percent of Sky PLC shareholders in Europe have taken up Comcast Corp.'s \$31 billion buyout offer so far, waiting for a higher bid from 21st Century Fox and the Disney Co. Comcast has told U.K. regulators that stockholders tendered only 0.21 percent of Sky shares — or 3.8 million out of a total of 1.7 billion — by Wednesday's deadline in the U.K., prompting the Philadelphia cable giant to set a new deadline of Sept. 12.

Comcast's offer to Sky shareholders amounts to \$18.91 a share, while one from 21st Century Fox, in conjunction with Disney, is \$17.95 a share, based on Thursday currency exchange rates. Sky shares closed on Thursday in London at \$19.74, indicating that investors believe there could be another bid. After months of speculation, most of the big Sky shareholders today are institutions or hedge funds. "All the body language suggests that Disney will raise its bid" for Sky, Neil Begley, senior vice president at Moody's Investors Service, said on Thursday. Although Fox has an existing competing bid for Sky to shareholders, "it's really Disney's decision at this point," he added.

Sky is an unresolved aspect of the takeover battle between Comcast and Disney for Fox's global entertainment assets that began in late 2017. Disney won that contest this summer with \$71.3 billion in stock and cash, with both Fox and Disney shareholders approving the deal in late July. Among the assets in the Disney/Fox transaction is a 39 percent stake in Sky. Fox and Disney would like to own 100 percent of Sky, which is what it would accomplish with its existing offer. But Comcast is seeking to carve off Sky for itself.

Comcast has aggressively bid for Sky as it sees it as a launching pad for a global TV business. Sky has about 23 million subscribers in the U.K., Ireland, Germany, Austria, Italy, Spain, and Switzerland, offering streaming products, satellite pay-TV services, and content such as Sky News. — *Philadelphia Inquirer*

Google deleted 58 Iran-linked accounts from YouTube and other Google sites, the tech company announced Thursday, in the latest sign that foreign agents are continuing to exploit U.S. tech companies in information warfare. Google said today it identified and deleted 39 YouTube channels, six Blogger accounts and 13 Google+ accounts that were sharing English-language political content in the U.S. while

[management training after flap with rival campaign worker](#)

Allentown Morning Call
[Pat Toomey's campaign email accounts targeted by foreign hackers](#)

masking ties to Iran's sole radio and TV broadcaster. That organization, Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting, is widely viewed as state-run.

The reveal came in a [blog post](#) by Google's senior vice president of global affairs, Kent Walker, who said the company has already briefed U.S. lawmakers and law enforcement on the matter. The news follows similar announcements earlier this week from Facebook and Twitter. Google also announced that it detected and removed 42 YouTube accounts associated with Russian troll farm Internet Research Agency. Those accounts also were posting English-language political content. Google worked with cybersecurity firm FireEye, which also tipped off Facebook and Twitter off to nefarious activity.

Facebook said Tuesday it took down 652 pages and accounts originating in Iran over "coordinated inauthentic behavior." Twitter said it also identified and suspended hundreds of accounts associated with an influence campaign, noting that many of the accounts originated in Iran. That action comes on the heels of [Microsoft's announcement](#) Tuesday that U.S. candidates and political groups are facing a barrage of attempted cyberattacks from hackers, including Russians implicated in attempted interference with the 2016 election. – **Politico**



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