

Combinazione linguistica: inglese-italiano

Macrosettore: economia

[Verizon Announces MCI Acquisition]

Verizon announced this morning that it has agreed to buy MCI in a deal it valued at \$6.7 billion in cash, stock and dividends. The boards of Verizon and MCI have approved the acquisition, which requires shareholder as well as regulatory approval. The company, in a statement, said it expects approval to take about a year. MCI board members accepted the offer last night after rejecting a sweetened and higher bid from Qwest, sources close to the negotiations said. Qwest, the rejected suitor, could attempt to challenge the Verizon-MCI deal. Among the reasons that MCI accepted a lower bid, sources said, was that Verizon is considered a better strategic fit and a more financially stable company than Qwest, and thus offers better long-term value to MCI shareholders. It was unclear early today if further layoffs at MCI would result from the acquisition. Verizon shareholders, according to the company, will feel the deal in a dilution of about 10 cents on earnings per share, though the statement said it should become a "breakeven" transaction in about three years. Qwest's increased offer, made late Friday, came in the form of cash and stock, and was intended to top a Verizon bid made last week matching Qwest's previous offer of about \$6.3 billion, sources close to the deal said. New York-based Verizon, meanwhile, offered \$6.3 billion in stock as well as dividend payments to MCI shareholders.