

# Will NTL up ante for Virgin Mobile?

January 3 2006

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Telecom analysts were waiting Tuesday to see if NTL would indeed up its bid for Virgin Mobile as predicted in a weekend newspaper report.

London's Sunday Times said NTL, Britain's largest cable operator, would boost its \$1.4 billion offer for Virgin by 10 percent sometime in the coming weeks.

The Times said that while Virgin Mobile majority owner Richard Branson was in favor of a deal with NTL, some minority investors on the board were seeking a higher price. It remained to be seen if 10 percent would change their minds.

Branson would retain about 15 percent of the combined company, which would offer British subscribers "four-play" mobile and fixed-line phone service along with broadband and television.

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