

Skype founders file another suit over eBay sale

September 18 2009



The founders of Skype fired another salvo Friday against online auction giant eBay's plans to sell the Web communications service.

The founders of Skype fired another salvo Friday against online auction giant eBay's plans to sell the Web communications service.

Joltid and [Joost](#), two companies owned by Skype founders Niklas Zennstrom and Janus Friis, filed a [lawsuit](#) in a Delaware court against former Joost chief executive Mike Volpi and Index Ventures, an investment firm seeking to buy Skype from eBay.

Volpi is a partner in Index Ventures and in the lawsuit filed on Friday he was accused of using his previous position at Joost, an online video portal, to "misappropriate" trade secrets used to put together the bid for Skype.

The complaint by Joltid and Joost was filed two days after Joltid named eBay, Skype and the group of investors who are seeking to purchase Skype from eBay as defendants in a [copyright infringement](#) lawsuit.

Joltid also filed suit against Skype in a British court in March.

eBay purchased Skype from Zennstrom, a Swede, and Friis, a Dane, in 2005 for a price tag that eventually exceeded 3.1 billion dollars and the pair have been reportedly seeking to buy back the company which made them billionaires.

eBay, however, announced two weeks ago it is selling a 65 percent stake in Skype to private equity firm Silver Lake Partners, London-based Index Ventures, the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board and [venture capital firm](#) Andreessen Horowitz for some two billion dollars.

There was no immediate comment from Volpi or Index Ventures on the latest lawsuit but [eBay](#) dismissed the previous complaint as "without merit" and said it expected the sale of Skype to go ahead as scheduled.

[Skype](#), which has its headquarters in Luxembourg, bypasses the standard telephone network by channeling voice and video calls over the Internet.

It allows users to call others free of charge and provides the ability to connect with land lines or mobile devices at low rates.

(c) 2009 AFP

Citation: Skype founders file another suit over eBay sale (2009, September 18) retrieved 17 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2009-09-skype-founders-ebay-sale.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.