

✖ [Microsoft](#) has officially announced the final agreement on [Skype](#) acquisition: this Skype call has quite a huge bill, \$8.5 billion.

Microsoft has released few details, regarding future integration with XBox gaming platform (and its recent Kinect motion-sensing device) and will continue to support 'non-Microsoft' software platform - Apple anyone?

Skype history is quite made of similar announcement (and acquisition-bound high-end evaluations): founded in 2003, was later acquired by eBay in 2005 for \$2.6 billion and spun off (for some \$2 bn) in 2009 after some disappointment from the online auction giant. A group of investors, led by Silver Lake, run the company with some nice performance: in the last 18 months, Skype claimed it increased by 150% montly calling minutes and a profit turning \$13.2 million through first half of 2010.

The closing of this IPO will certainly ensure Microsoft position in VoIP market, after some previous business-oriented attempts, while facing growing competition on both the Apple side (Facetime becoming standard among Mac users) and mobile devices, iPad 2 namely - which may prove the best bet.

[Via [Skype](#)]