

TAIWAN STOPS CHINESE STREAMING



Taiwan plans to stop local sales for Chinese internet television streaming services operated by the likes of iQiyi and Tencent Holdings. The service iQiyi applied in 2016 to set up a Taiwan subsidiary, but was rejected because Chinese companies cannot operate online streaming services there.

However, Taiwan is not blocking or banning them, the National Communications Commission said.

Baidu-backed, Netflix-like iQiyi said in a statement issued by unit iQiyi International that it was paying close attention to the situation and that it believed it should “not become the specific target of legislation”.

Taiwan has a free internet, unlike China, which blocks sites such as Google, Facebook and Twitter. Taiwan also does not ban access to popular Chinese apps like WeChat or sites like Baidu.

China does not permit Taiwanese firms to offer internet television streaming services.

Chinese internet giants have come under pressure internationally, led by the United States, where President Donald Trump ordered ByteDance last week to divest video-sharing app TikTok’s U.S. operations within 90 days.

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission is investigating iQiyi after a short seller accused it of inflating user numbers and prices, it said last week.

ROMANIA CABLE MARKET GROWS

Digi Communications and its



operations in Central and Eastern Europe had a good run in 2020. Pay-TV, saw the biggest growth in the Romanian cable market. This more than offset losses in other areas. As of the end of H1, Digi’s subsidiary RCS&RDS had 3,801,000 cable RGUs, or 354,000 (+10.3%) more than a year earlier. At the same time, the number of DTH RGUs fell by 18,000 (-3.5%) to 499,000.



Meanwhile, ARPU fell for both its cable (-3.8% to €5.1) and DTH (-3.9% to €4.9) operations.

In Hungary, Digi’s subsidiary lost both cable and DTH subscribers in the year to June 30. In the former case, the number of RGUs fell by 14,000 (-2%) to 682,000, while in the latter the figure was 21,000 (-7.6%) lower at 255,000. ARPU was also down, by 10% to €7.2 in the case of cable and 6.6% to €8.5 for DTH.

Romania Digi’s revenues in the Covid-19 affected second quarter were, at €187.8 million. Cable and fixed internet were two of the main drivers of this growth. Hungary Digi’s Q2 revenues were, at €50.5 million.

TELEKOM SERBIA CLOSE TO NEW ACQUISITIONS

Telekom Srbija is close to the end of the acquisition cycle in its home market and in neighbouring Bosnia & Herzegovina (BiH). Telekom Srbija had a record number of 10.4 million users in 2019, or 6% more than a year earlier.

Its revenues meanwhile grew by a 7% to reach a record RSD133.7 billion (€1.13 billion) and the operating profit rose by 25% to RSD48.4 billion.

Telekom Srbija’s TV customer total increased by almost 50% to 1.15 million and internet customers by 21% to 1.25 million.

The number of satellite TV subscribers increased by 90,000 in 2019.

RUSSIAN DTH NTV- PLUS



Russian DTH platform NTV-Plus has closed its Interactive

TV service, which provided access to functions such as pause, rewind and viewing programmes from its archive on set-top boxes.

All subscribers who have the service along with Basic or Basic Plus programme packages will receive a month’s free access to its multiscreen (online TV) service in September, after which it will be available for ₹ 199 (€2.28) a month.

NTV-Plus says that subscribers whose Interactive TV service is connected to the Basic Online package are now being offered all Online TV functions.

It also stresses that not all channels available on a satellite TV subscription may be available on online TV due to the restriction of rights to broadcast on the internet. ■