

BUSINESS

Twitch still the king of live game streaming

Media companies, tech giants trying to get a foothold in \$180B industry

By Imad Khan
NEW YORK TIMES

Microsoft paid millions to lure a top video game streaming star. Facebook signed an exclusive streaming deal with the largest e-sports company in the world. Twitter streamed Fortnite’s collapse into a black hole.

Despite their efforts to grab a larger slice of the video game streaming arena, none has made a dent in the power of the market leader, Twitch.

Amazon paid \$1 billion in 2014 to acquire Twitch, which now controls 76 percent of the video game streaming market in the Americas and Europe. Its popularity has attracted numerous rivals, all fighting to court millennial cord-cutters and younger “cord-nevers.”

The competition among tech giants and media companies also signals the importance of live streaming in the \$180 billion video game industry, which generates more revenue than movies and music. But in an era when established platforms tend to monopolize entire sectors, taking on Twitch has proved difficult.

Microsoft has taken aggressive steps into video game streaming, starting with its 2016 acquisition of Beam, a streaming platform it renamed Mixer a year later.

It made its boldest move this year by going after one of Twitch’s biggest stars, signing an exclusive deal with Tyler Blevins, better known for his online alias, Ninja. The terms of the multiyear deal were not disclosed, but influencer agents and industry analysts estimated that it was in the double-digit millions.

Unfortunately for Microsoft, bringing on Blevins has done little to raise Mixer’s view count. Mixer maintains just 3.2 percent of the live-streaming market and grew only 0.2 percent in the third quarter, according to the industry analytics firm StreamElements. And Twitch increased its viewership during the quarter, despite losing Blevins in August.

Given how enormous the Twitch community is, it’s hard for content creators to justify streaming on smaller



Chona Kasinger / New York Times

Chris Covent, in a bid to become a full-time streamer, switched from Twitch to Microsoft’s Mixer. Despite efforts by tech giants to grab a larger slice of the video game streaming arena, none has made a serious dent.

platforms. But some streamers are drawn to the opportunity to start fresh.

Chris Covent had long dreamed of becoming a full-time video game streamer, the modern version of public-access television personalities who broadcast their lives on the internet.

But after four years on Twitch, Covent was not gaining the following that would allow him to leave his job as a Boost Mobile store manager in Flint, Mich. He decided in 2016 to make the jump to Mixer.

Why do all these major internet platforms want to be in video game streaming? Facebook is already the biggest social media network, Google is the largest search engine and the Disney-owned 21st Century Fox – which invested \$100 million in the social broadcasting platform Caffeine last year – is



Chona Kasinger / New York Times

An array of controllers belongs to Chris Covent, who has long dreamed of becoming a full-time video game streamer.

a dominant player in Hollywood.

More than 700 million people a month play, watch or hang out in gaming groups on Facebook, said Vivek Sharma, the company’s head of gaming.

“That’s a massive number,” he said. “It’s a much bigger phenomenon than people realize.”

Twitter is also positioning itself as a complementary platform to livestreaming services.

“Whether it’s the e-sports tournament and seeing highlights from that, or a gaming conference such as E3, those pieces of short-form video content do incredibly well on the platform,” said Rishi Chadha, the global head of gaming partnerships at Twitter.

The platform had 1 billion tweets about gaming last year, and 2019 is likely to be even bigger, with a 20 percent increase in conversations.

Twitter has live-streamed major events, including e-sports tournaments and news conferences at E3 in Los Angeles. When Epic Games shut down Fortnite for two days, leaving gamers with nothing more to look at than a spinning black hole, Twitter was livestreaming the gaping void. That stream had 1.4 million concurrent viewers, which, according to Chadha, made it the largest gaming livestream on the platform – and one of the largest on Twitter ever.

Microsoft’s Mixer, YouTube Gaming, Facebook Gaming and the new Caffeine all have deep war

chests. Even so, Twitch remains supreme, signing multimillion-dollar deals with e-sports companies and top streamers.

Because Twitch has been around the longest, it has developed its own culture, with inside jokes tossed

around on the chat logs that accompany livestreams. That community has allowed streamers, who get most of their income from subscriptions and donations, to thrive.

“The dialogue that’s happening is in a language



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Pre-Proposal Conference: 1/9/20 @ 9am
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3555 Timmons Lane, Houston, TX.
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BIDS & PROPOSALS

Proposal Notice
2019 HOLBROOK & POST ES AND KAHLA MS RENOVATIONS
CFISD Project No. 19-08-5446R-RFP
CYPRESS-FAIRBANKS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
The Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District will accept Competitive Sealed Proposals from qualified contractors until 2:00 PM on **Tuesday, January 28, 2020** for Base Proposals, and 3:00 P.M. for Alternates. Proposals at the Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District Winderm Administrative Annex located at 12510 Windfern Road, Houston, Texas 77064. A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held **Monday, January 13, 2020** at 10:00 A.M. at the Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District Windfern Administrative Annex (address listed above). Proposal Evaluation Criteria are published in the "Instructions to Offerors" section of the proposal documents.
Plans and specifications will be available on/after December 30, 2019 and can be obtained from the following address for a refundable deposit of **\$300.00 per set**. Make checks payable to Texas-IBI Group Inc.
Texas-IBI Group, Inc.
455 E. Medical Center Blvd., Suite 500
Webster, Texas 77598
(281) 286-6605
The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities and to reject any or all proposals.

COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED BY PROCUREMENT SERVICES, PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ATTN: BID/PROPOSAL RECEIPT DEPARTMENT, 111 EAST LOOP NORTH, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77029 UNTIL 1:00 A.M., ON FEBRUARY 12, 2020 FOR THE FOLLOWING:

CSP-1373 REHABILITATION OF WHARVES 4 & 5 AT BAYPORT CONTAINER TERMINAL

A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT PORT AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE BUILDING - 4TH, FLOOR BOARDROOM, 111 EAST LOOP NORTH, HOUSTON, TEXAS ON JANUARY 9, 2020 AT 2:00 PM SO THAT THE PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS MAY ASK QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS PROJECT.

SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM PORT HOUSTON'S ePROCUREMENT WEBSITE <https://buyspeed.poha.com/bsol/>.

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COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED BY PROCUREMENT SERVICES, PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ATTN: BID/PROPOSAL RECEIPT DEPARTMENT, 111 EAST LOOP NORTH, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77029 UNTIL 11:00 A.M., ON JANUARY 22, 2020 FOR THE FOLLOWING:

CSP- PURCHASE OF AUTO PARTS FOR BARBORS CUT, BAYPORT CONTAINER TERMINALS AND TURNING BASIN TERMINAL
A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT THE BAYPORT CONTAINER TERMINAL ADM. BLDG., 12621 PORT ROAD, SEABROOK, TEXAS 77586 (LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM), ON JANUARY 7, 2020, 2:00 PM SO THAT THE PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS MAY ASK QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS PROJECT.

SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM PORT HOUSTON'S ePROCUREMENT WEBSITE: <https://buyspeed.poha.com/bsol/>. PROPOSALS WILL BE OPENED AT 11:30 A.M. OF THE DAY DUE IN THE PROCUREMENT SERVICES OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING, 111 EAST LOOP NORTH, HOUSTON, TEXAS. THE PORT AUTHORITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS OR RESPONSES.

SEALED QUALIFICATIONS WILL BE RECEIVED BY PROCUREMENT SERVICES, PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ATTN: BID/PROPOSAL RECEIPT DEPARTMENT, 111 EAST LOOP NORTH, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77029 UNTIL 11:00 A.M., ON FEBRUARY 12, 2020 FOR THE FOLLOWING:

PERFORM CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS TESTING SERVICES DURING THE REHABILITATION OF WHARF 4 & 5 AT BAYPORT CONTAINER TERMINAL (RFQ-1374)

A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL NOT BE HELD FOR THIS PROJECT.

FIRMS INTERESTED IN SUBMITTING QUALIFICATIONS FOR THIS PROCUREMENT MAY OBTAIN A COPY OF THE RFQ FROM THE PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY'S WEBSITE, <http://buyspeed.poha.com/bsol/>, WHERE VENDOR REGISTRATION AND "PROCUREMENT PACKAGE" DOWNLOAD INSTRUCTIONS ARE AVAILABLE.

SEALED PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED BY PROCUREMENT SERVICES, PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING, 111 EAST LOOP NORTH, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77029 UNTIL 11:00 A.M., ON JANUARY 17, 2020, FOR THE FOLLOWING:
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR PROPERTY & CASUALTY INSURANCE ALL REQUESTS FOR UNDERWRITING INFORMATION AND/OR ANY QUESTIONS RELATED TO THIS RFP MUST BE DIRECTED TO PHA'S BROKER.
PHA BROKER CONTACT INFORMATION:
Michael Seibels, & Williams of Texas, Inc.
5080 Spectrum Drive, #900E
Addison, Texas 75001
ATTN: Robert Waggoner, Vice President, Public Entity
Telephone: 469-232-2140
Email: rwaggoner@mcgriff.com

FIRMS INTERESTED IN SUBMITTING PROPOSALS FOR THIS PROCUREMENT MAY OBTAIN A COPY OF THE RFP FROM THE PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY'S WEBSITE, <https://buyspeed.poha.com/bsol/>.

LEGAL NOTICES	LEGAL NOTICES	LEGAL NOTICES
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Notice of Public Meeting
FM 2920 from BU 290 to SH 249
CSJs: 2941-01-026 and 2941-01-028

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), Houston District, will hold two identical public meetings regarding the proposed roadway widening along Farm-to-Market (FM) 2920 from Business (BU) 290 to State Highway (SH) 249 in Harris County, Texas. One meeting will be held Tuesday, January 28, 2020 at Tomball High School, 30330 Quinn Road, Tomball, TX 77375. The second meeting will be held Thursday, January 30, 2020 at Waller High School, 20950 Fields Store Road, Waller, TX 77484. The same information will be presented at both meetings. Displays will be available for viewing from 5:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. No formal presentation will be made.

The purpose of the public meetings is to present the proposed project to the public and receive comments. The proposed design would widen the existing FM 2920 from a two-lane roadway to a four-lane divided roadway from BU 290 to Cypress Rosehill Road and from a four-lane to a six-lane divided roadway from Cypress Rosehill Road to SH 249. The proposed project would include a flush median from BU 290 to US 290, a grassy median from US 290 to AJ Foyt and a raised median from AJ Foyt to SH 249.

Maps showing the proposed project's location and design drawings will be available for review at the public meeting. This information will also be available by appointment for review Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M., excluding State holidays, at the TxDOT Houston District Office, located at 7600 Washington Avenue, Houston, Texas 77007.

To schedule an appointment at the Houston District, please contact Chance Norman at (713) 802-5251. Information will also be available at TxDOT's area office located at 14838 NW Freeway, Houston, TX 77040, (713) 934-5900. The project information can also be viewed at TxDOT's website: <http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/get-involved/about/hearings-meetings.html>.

All interested persons are invited to attend this public meeting. Written comments must be postmarked or submitted electronically by February 14, 2020. Written comments may be submitted at the meeting. Written comments may also be submitted either in person or by mail to the TxDOT District Office, Director of Project Development, P.O. Box 1386, Houston, Texas 77251 or submitted electronically at HOU-PIOWebMail@txdot.gov or at the project website: <http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/get-involved/about/hearings-meetings.html>.

Materials for the public meeting will be presented in English. Persons interested in attending the meeting who have special communication or accommodation needs, or need an interpreter, are encouraged to contact TxDOT's Public Information Office (713) 802-5076. Requests should be made at least five days prior to the public meeting. Every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate these needs.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried-out by TxDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327 and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) dated December 9, 2019 and executed by FHWA and TxDOT.

Coffee’s surprise rally jolts traders’ outlook for 2020

By Marvin G. Perez and Fabiana Batista
BLOOMBERG NEWS

Coffee’s stunning rally in late 2019 took many traders and analysts by surprise, creating tension over where prices go from here.

Arabica beans have surged 28 percent since the end of September, on pace for the best quarterly performance since 2014 and the biggest gain among major commodities in the last three months. The move came after futures in May tumbled to the lowest in 13 years, driving some farmers out of the industry.

Prices recovered after adverse weather threatened production in Brazil, the world’s top grower and exporter. Analysts began predicting the market would shift into a supply deficit, helping to drive the rebound. But the size of the gains were surprising as a measure of volatility surged to the highest in more than four years. That’s lending a cautious tone to the outlook for early 2020.

“The market ran up too much, too fast, and now we’re seeing a healthy pullback,” said Josh Graves,

a senior market strategist for RJO Futures in Chicago.

Arabica-coffee futures traded in New York are up 27 percent in 2019.

Here’s what traders will be keeping an eye on in 2020:

World deficit

Brazil’s end-of-season inventories are set to drop to the lowest in data going back to 1962, the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates.

Rabobank International sees a world supply shortfall of 3.5 million bags in the 2019-2020 season, while Citigroup Inc. predicts 4.7 million and sees a 2020-2021 deficit of 1.3 million bags.

Brazil production

Crop rallies typically bring new supplies. The country’s low interest rates and inflation will probably encourage acreage expansion, said Carlos Alberto Fernandes Santana, director at Empresa Interagrica SA, the local unit for Ecom Trading, one of the world’s largest traders of the commodity.

It’s also still unclear how big next season’s Brazilian

harvest will be, with some expectations for a record crop. Rainfall has been excellent, well distributed in most of nation’s producing regions, Regis Ricco Alves, director at RR Consultoria Rural in Alfenas, Minas Gerais, said by message.

Global demand

Even if prices have peaked in the short term, they may climb by the second half of next year, according to Aakash Doshi, a director for Citigroup in New York who says prices could break above \$1.60 in 2021.

Coffee demand continues to see new growth thanks to the popularity of cold drinks, especially in the U.S., the biggest consumer, said Jim Watson, senior market analyst for Rabobank in New York.

Consumer impact

Coffee roasters and chains typically lock-in prices ahead of time, and they’re not likely to “feel much of an issue yet,” said BTIG analyst Peter Saleh. That’s good news for consumers who may not see prices go up significantly for some time.