# Royal Mail enters new era as Czech billionaire Daniel Křetínský completes £3.57bn takeover



In May 2024, the board of International Distribution Services (IDS), the parent company of Royal Mail, agreed to a £3.57 billion takeover offer from Czech billionaire Daniel Křetínský's EP Group. This acquisition marked a significant shift, potentially placing the 500-year-old British postal service under foreign ownership for the first time. ([itv.com](https://www.itv.com/news/2024-05-29/royal-mail-owner-accepts-357bn-takeover-offer-from-czech-billionaire?utm_source=openai))

Křetínský, known as the "Czech Sphinx" due to his enigmatic demeanor, had already established a substantial stake in IDS, owning over 27% of the company. His EP Group, a diversified conglomerate, has interests spanning energy, retail, and media sectors across Europe. ([shropshirestar.com](https://www.shropshirestar.com/uk-news/2024/12/16/who-is-daniel-kretinsky-the-czech-billionaire-buyer-of-royal-mail/?utm_source=openai))

The proposed deal valued IDS at £5.2 billion, including debt, with EP Group offering 370 pence per share. To address concerns about the preservation of Royal Mail's public service obligations, Křetínský committed to maintaining the Universal Service Obligation, ensuring six-day delivery services, and keeping the company's headquarters and tax residency in the UK. ([apnews.com](https://apnews.com/article/6f64969278362541f6f4831f0ae31f51?utm_source=openai))

In August 2024, the UK government initiated a review of the acquisition under the National Security and Investment Act, given the strategic importance of the postal service. Business Secretary Jonathan Reynolds announced that Křetínský had secured a "golden share," granting the UK government veto power over significant changes to Royal Mail's ownership, headquarters location, and tax status. ([reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com/markets/deals/daniel-kretinskys-ep-group-agrees-terms-with-uk-govt-over-royal-mail-deal-2024-12-16/?utm_source=openai))

By December 2024, the UK government approved the acquisition, with Křetínský's EP Group agreeing to legally binding commitments to protect Royal Mail's heritage and operations. These included maintaining the Royal Mail brand, upholding the Universal Service Obligation, and ensuring the company's UK headquarters and tax residency. ([ft.com](https://www.ft.com/content/cecec030-10e0-4ec5-979a-6c4defa89874?utm_source=openai))

The acquisition was completed in early 2025, marking a new chapter for Royal Mail under its new ownership. Křetínský's EP Group expressed intentions to modernize Royal Mail's operations, invest in parcel services, and enhance its competitiveness in the evolving logistics market. ([ft.com](https://www.ft.com/content/bac10c52-16b6-4542-82f9-f5371915a1ed?utm_source=openai))

The deal has been met with mixed reactions. While some stakeholders welcomed the investment and modernization plans, others expressed concerns about the potential impact on service quality and employment conditions. The Communication Workers Union (CWU) acknowledged the commitments made but called for improved employee relations and service restoration. ([apnews.com](https://apnews.com/article/b192608f2c0813f6911809783a330e29?utm_source=openai))

As of May 2025, Royal Mail continues to operate under the ownership of Křetínský's EP Group, with ongoing efforts to modernize its services and adapt to the changing demands of the logistics industry.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.itv.com/news/2024-05-29/royal-mail-owner-accepts-357bn-takeover-offer-from-czech-billionaire> - This article reports that in May 2024, the board of International Distribution Services (IDS), the parent company of Royal Mail, agreed to a £3.57 billion takeover offer from Czech billionaire Daniel Křetínský's EP Group, marking a significant shift potentially placing the 500-year-old British postal service under foreign ownership for the first time.
2. <https://www.shropshirestar.com/uk-news/2024/12/16/who-is-daniel-kretinsky-the-czech-billionaire-buyer-of-royal-mail/> - This article provides information about Daniel Křetínský, known as the 'Czech Sphinx' due to his enigmatic demeanor, who had already established a substantial stake in IDS, owning over 27% of the company. His EP Group, a diversified conglomerate, has interests spanning energy, retail, and media sectors across Europe.
3. <https://apnews.com/article/6f64969278362541f6f4831f0ae31f51> - This article details the proposed deal valuing IDS at £5.2 billion, including debt, with EP Group offering 370 pence per share. To address concerns about the preservation of Royal Mail's public service obligations, Křetínský committed to maintaining the Universal Service Obligation, ensuring six-day delivery services, and keeping the company's headquarters and tax residency in the UK.
4. <https://www.reuters.com/markets/deals/daniel-kretinskys-ep-group-agrees-terms-with-uk-govt-over-royal-mail-deal-2024-12-16/> - This article reports that in August 2024, the UK government initiated a review of the acquisition under the National Security and Investment Act, given the strategic importance of the postal service. Business Secretary Jonathan Reynolds announced that Křetínský had secured a 'golden share,' granting the UK government veto power over significant changes to Royal Mail's ownership, headquarters location, and tax status.
5. <https://www.ft.com/content/cecec030-10e0-4ec5-979a-6c4defa89874> - This article states that by December 2024, the UK government approved the acquisition, with Křetínský's EP Group agreeing to legally binding commitments to protect Royal Mail's heritage and operations. These included maintaining the Royal Mail brand, upholding the Universal Service Obligation, and ensuring the company's UK headquarters and tax residency.
6. <https://www.ft.com/content/bac10c52-16b6-4542-82f9-f5371915a1ed> - This article reports that the acquisition was completed in early 2025, marking a new chapter for Royal Mail under its new ownership. Křetínský's EP Group expressed intentions to modernize Royal Mail's operations, invest in parcel services, and enhance its competitiveness in the evolving logistics market.
7. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/money/comment/article-14665527/Labours-postal-sell-Did-learn-financial-vandalism-water-firms-asks-ALEX-BRUMMER.html?ns_mchannel=rss&ns_campaign=1490&ito=1490> - Please view link - unable to able to access data