

# **Innovation Capital**

*Investment Bankers*



**Gaming Newsweekly**  
For the week ended January 21st, 2018

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For securities-related inquiries, please contact an Innovation Capital banker.

## Gaming Industry Public Company & High Yield Data:

[Public Company Trading Comparables](#)

[High Yield Bond Trading Levels](#)

## Featured Article:

### Hard Rock Las Vegas being sold

January 19, 2018

LAS VEGAS- (Eli Segall Las Vegas Review-Journal) - Owners of the Hard Rock Hotel are in talks to sell the Las Vegas resort, and plans call for British billionaire Richard Branson's Virgin Hotels to operate it, two people familiar with the matter said Friday. Hard Rock majority owner Brookfield Asset Management has been in "advanced negotiations" to sell the off-Strip hotel, one of the people said. The other said the lead buyers are Bosworth Hospitality Partners founder Richard "Boz" Bosworth and investment firm Juniper Capital Partners, and that Virgin would also have an ownership stake. Both sources said the buyers are looking to close the deal this quarter and that the hotel would become a Virgin-branded property.

[Click here to read the full article in Las Vegas Review-Journal](#)

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### Gambling: ministers urged to be bold with curbs on FOBTs

January 21, 2018

UNITED KINGDOM- (Peter Walker, The Guardian) - Campaigners have urged the government to be bold in its response to the problem of fixed-odds betting terminals (FOBTs) amid reports that a consultation on the issue closing this week will recommend slashing the maximum single bet from £100 to £2. The consultation, ordered by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) in October, is due to close on Tuesday. It will examine what reduced maximum stake should be imposed, with a stated range of between £50 and £2.

[Click here to read the full article in The Guardian](#)

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### Bridge to Bettendorf casino to close Tuesday

January 21, 2018

IOWA- (Quad-City Times) - The George Thuenen Bridge across State Street in Bettendorf will be closed to all traffic Tuesday. Traffic will be detoured east along U.S. 67 (State Street) to 23rd Street for access to the Isle Casino Hotel. Traffic control message boards and signage will be provided for the detour and for internal traffic flow on the Isle property. The closure is necessary to facilitate the removal of

the skywalk over Isle Parkway that previously connected the Isle Hotel to the riverboat. The bridge will reopen to traffic on Wednesday.

[Click here to read the full article in the Quad-City Times](#)

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## **New Oklahoma casino to bring entertainment, jobs and revenue**

January 21, 2018

OKLAHOMA- (Alex Housden, KOCO News 5) - U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has approved a new casino for the Shawnee tribe in Guymon, Oklahoma. The large casino is not only expected to bring entertainment to Oklahoma, but it's expected to help our state with jobs and revenue. "This is a historic opportunity for a tribe and a nation to re-bond for the land and the water and their future," Zinke said. Dozens of lawmakers met Friday to celebrate the approval of a new casino for the Shawnee tribe. Zinke said it's business like this that not only improves the state's economy by bringing in \$30 million of revenue, but also improves the nation's economy.

[Click here to read the article in KOCO News 5](#)

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## **MGM outpends the rest in casino bid**

January 20, 2018

CONNECTICUT- (Ken Dixon, CT Post) - While the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribal nations are set to begin work on an East Windsor casino within weeks, MGM Resorts International is raising its bet for Connecticut's lucrative gambling dollars. With an offer for a Bridgeport casino and fierce opposition to the East Windsor site within 17 miles of the \$900 million MGM casino nearing completion in Springfield, Mass., there is as much as \$20 million a month in Connecticut gambling revenue at stake. MGM upped the ante last year, spending more than \$3.8 million in TV and radio ads and lobbying state agencies and lawmakers, including Gov. Dannel P. Malloy and Attorney General George Jepsen, a Hearst Connecticut Media review of public records in the Office of State Ethics has found.

[Click here to read the full article in CT Post](#)

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## **Goa's casino market could grow to US\$1 bln: analyst**

January 19, 2018

INDIA- (GGRASIA) - Casino gaming in the Indian state of Goa could be worth up to US\$1 billion in terms of gross gaming revenue (GGR) as it develops from a riverboat-based market to one focused on bricks and mortar casinos, says brokerage Union Gaming Securities Asia Ltd. "We compare the Goa transition from riverboat to land-based, as like the Midwest [U.S.] riverboat transition story on steroids," said analyst Grant Govertsen in a note on Friday. According to the institution, it is the "already-government-telegraphed move" to land-based operations in Goa that will provide the highest

levels of growth in coming years. "We expect the government's formal announcement early this year," it said.

[Click here to read the full article in GGRASIA](#)

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## **Despite Success in New Jersey, Efforts are Still Underway to Ban Online Gambling in the US**

January 18, 2018

UNITED STATES- (Michael Gentile, Poker Fuse) - Lawmakers in states facing significant budget deficits may want to take notice of the success of the online gaming market in New Jersey where revenues from iGaming continue to grow at a staggering pace. Revenue from online casino games in the state grew by 30% in 2017 compared to those generated in 2016. According to figures released by the New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement last week, online casino games (including such favorites as blackjack, roulette and slots) generated \$221.3 million last year.

[Click here to read the full article in Poker Fuse](#)

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## **MGP proposes merger with Caesars' REIT**

January 17, 2018

LAS VEGAS- (GGRASIA) - MGM Growth Properties LLC, the real estate investment trust (REIT) controlled by U.S.-based casino operator MGM Resorts International, has offered to purchase the REIT that manages several properties operated by market-rival casino firm Caesars Entertainment Corp. MGM Growth Properties is proposing to acquire 100 percent of Vici Properties Inc.'s outstanding common stock for US\$19.50 per share, according to a letter released on Tuesday. "We believe this represents a meaningful premium to the potential value your current shareholders would receive in the event of an initial public offering, especially after considering the fees, discounts, dilution, risks and uncertainties associated with such an offering," the document added.

[Click here to read the full article in GGRASIA](#)

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## **VICI Properties Inc. Rejects Unsolicited Proposal from MGM Growth Properties LLC**

January 17, 2018

LAS VEGAS- (VICI Properties Inc.) - VICI Properties Inc., an experiential-asset real estate investment trust, today confirmed it previously received on January 5, 2018 an unsolicited non-binding, written proposal from MGM Growth Properties LLC for MGP to acquire all of the outstanding shares of common stock of the Company for \$19.50 per share in the form of MGP shares. VICI Properties, in consultation with its financial and legal advisors, carefully and thoroughly reviewed MGP's unsolicited and non-binding proposal, following which VICI Properties' Board of Directors

unanimously determined that pursuing it was not in the best interests of the Company and its stockholders.

[Click here to read the full press release](#)

## **PokerStars Combines Online Poker Player Pools in France and Spain**

January 17, 2018

EUROPE- (Michael Gentile, Poker Fuse) - European Shared Liquidity finally became a reality on Tuesday when PokerStars became the very first online poker company to share its player pool between France and Spain. The event marks a significant breakthrough in efforts to join the player pools in regulated European markets. Just one day after Spanish regulators completed the required steps to allow operators to combine their player pools with other select European countries by publishing its cross-border liquidity sharing resolution in the state gazette, PokerStars launched its Franco-Spanish liquidity pool, the first of its kind in the world.

[Click here to read the full article in Poker Fuse](#)

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## **Ourgame spends big on Chinese mobile game acquisitions**

January 17, 2018

CHINA- (Inside Asian Gaming) - Chinese gaming giant Ourgame Holdings Ltd has embarked on a spending spree that will see it acquire three mainland China-based companies engaged in the development of mobile gaming products. In a series of filings to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange overnight, Ourgame announced that its wholly-owned subsidiary Tianjin Shengyou Shidai had entered into a share transfer agreement with Shenzhen Xunyou Internet Technology Co to purchase 100% of the equity interest in the company for RMB150 million (US\$23.3 million), with Nanjing Haoyun Meicheng Electronics Technology Co for RMB220 million (US\$34.1 million) and with Xiamen Yiwantang Internet Technology Co Ltd for RMB55 million (US\$8.5 million).

[Click here to read the full article in Inside Asian Gaming](#)

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## **A huge indoor waterpark is coming to NY**

January 16, 2018

ALBANY- (Joseph Spector, Albany Bureau) - A two-acre indoor waterpark inside a luxury hotel is set to open in the Catskills in early 2019. The owners of the Poconos' Camelback Resort said Tuesday they plan to open the Kartrite Hotel & Indoor Waterpark at the new Resorts World Catskills, which is set to open next month. The Thompson, Sullivan County, complex was long planned as part of the \$1 billion casino and resort that received a state gambling license in 2014. "We're building upon the family-focused thrills and amenities that have made Camelback Resort & Aquatopia a premier destination in the Pocono Mountains," Arthur Berry III, a co-owner of the new waterpark.

[Click here to read the full article in lohud-part of the USA Today Network](#)

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