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Easyjet's fresh Alitalia swoop

EASYJET is eyeing a swoop on the collapsed airline Alitalia in a tie-up with Delta Airlines and Italian rail operator Ferrovie dello Stato Italiane.

The budget airline confirmed last night it is in discussion with the two companies about a bid for Alitalia.

The Italian carrier collapsed into administration in 2017 for the second time in a decade as it continued to lose money and struggled to compete with budget rivals such as Ryanair and **Easyjet**.

The Italian government has been searching for a buyer since.

Easyjet has previously expressed an interest in making a grab for Alitalia, but talks were delayed by a political deadlock in the country as a result of a hung parliament.

Italy's Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte said: 'The government is willing to participate in the creation of a new Alitalia on the condition that this is in line with European rules and that there is a sustainable business plan in place.'

Easyjet said: 'There is no certainty at this stage that any transaction will proceed and **Easyjet** will provide a further update in due course, if and when appropriate.' Its shares closed up 1.3pc, or 16.5p, at 1282p.