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Stelios hits out at firms' bid to 'steal' easyHotel

TRAVEL tycoon Sir Stelios Haji-Ioannou has failed to stop an easyHotel takeover after accusing bidders of attempting to steal it.

The hotel firm is set to be scooped up by Canadian investment fund Ivanhoe Cambridge and Luxembourg property fund manager ICAMAP Investments in a £127m deal after their offer was backed by more than half of investors.

Haji-Ioannou, who started the brand after founding easyJet in 1995, criticised a 95p per share offer for Easyhotel and said investors are being ripped off.

He said: 'ICAMAP is simply trying to "steal" this company from under the noses of other investors.'

The Greek billionaire, 52, owns 27.5pc of easyHotel through his easyGroup investment firm.

He tried to block the deal by buying up easyHotel shares but he was this week only able to buy 10,000 additional shares, equivalent to 0.01pc of the share capital, at 95p each despite bidding up to 96p.

Haji-Ioannou said this showed demand at the price offered by the bidders and added: 'I ask all shareholders to join me in rejecting the offer of 95p as I have for our entire stake.'

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