

Naspers Ltd likely to surge its stake in Swiggy

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Naspers Ltd. is planning to increase its stake in Indian online food-delivery business Swiggy as the startup plots its third fundraising round of the year.

Africa's largest company by market value has indicated that it intends to support a financing that could raise more than \$600 million, Swiggy's biggest to date, according to the people. There's also an opportunity to buy stakes from investors such as Bessemer Venture Partners, they said, asking not to be identified as the information isn't public.

Tencent Holdings Ltd., the Chinese internet giant in which Naspers owns a 31 per cent stake, is also planning to invest in the fundraising, according to one of the people.

Swiggy's value has risen to more than \$2 billion after Cape Town-based Naspers led two previous funding rounds to become the firm's biggest shareholder, according to the people. Naspers had a 22 per cent stake as of the end of March. The company hasn't made a final decision on whether to take part in the latest financing and may yet opt against it, one of the people said.

Naspers has targeted India for investments as the company seeks to replicate a blockbuster early bet on Tencent. The company made a \$1.6 billion profit from the sale of its 11 per cent stake in Indian e-commerce startup Flipkart earlier this year, and also has shares in travel business MakeMyTrip and classifieds business OLX.

Food delivery has been a favourite industry of Naspers, with assets including Germany's Delivery Hero AG and iFood in Brazil. The company plans to invest in another Indian food company called Hungerbox, a tech-enabled corporate catering company.