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Budget Ax Hangs Over Ada Funds

By DARRYL K. TAFT
GCN Staff

Budget cuts will kill one program operated by the Ada Joint Program Office this year and could affect Ada 9X, a project to revise the standard.

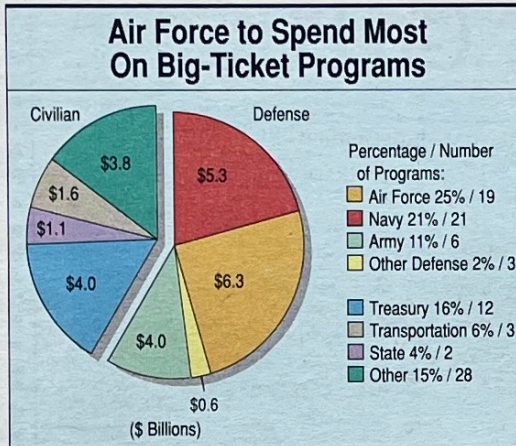
Because of cuts in AJPO funding, the office will not be able to support its Ada Technology Insertion Program (ATIP) this year, AJPO director John Solomond said.

Solomond spoke late last month at a meeting of the Washington chapter of the Association for Computing Machinery's Special Interest Group on Ada.

Congress earmarked only about \$1 million in funding for the ATIP program for fiscal 1990, a figure Solomond described as "so small that we could really only support about two programs." So "the funds that were earmarked for that, I plan to use for the Ada Language System/Naval (ALS/N) effort," he said.

Solomond said the ATIP program had been very successful in 1988 and 1989.

"However, we received a serious cut in budget for 1990, and I don't see ADA Page 73



Of the 100 largest government information technology procurements over the next two years, Defense Department contracts, from the Air Force in particular, will comprise the lion's share of business. All these programs have life cycle costs of at least \$30 million.

Zenith Withdraws Desktop III Protest

By DAVID W. ROBB
GCN Staff

Zenith Data Systems Corp. last week withdrew its protest of the Desktop III contract award to Unisys Corp. The 11th-hour settlement with the Air Force allows the microcomputer requirements procurement to proceed.

The Air Force will begin a 10-day functional-test demonstration on the Unisys Corp. PW 816 and PW 820 micros by Jan. 24. When the units pass the tests, Unisys can begin shipping them to buyers.

In the settlement, the Air Force and Unisys agreed to name suppliers not identified in the Unisys proposal and "reaffirmed" that Unisys will supply domestically

produced math coprocessors. In addition, Unisys agreed to allow Zenith to buy equipment available under the contract.

The General Services Administration Board of Contract Appeals had suspended work on the Desktop III contract, awarded to Unisys Nov. 17, following Zenith's protest on Nov. 27. Since the original protest, Zenith lawyers had filed three amended protests, essentially dropping all but two complaints, Air Force attorney Carl J. Peckinpaugh said.

The remaining issues centered on whether the Air Force had complied with the Trade Agreements Act and had justification to call for second best-and-final offers (BAFOs), Peckinpaugh said.

The final amendment to the Desktop III request for proposals bundled math coprocessors with the workstations, instead of listing the coprocessors as separate items. Industry sources speculated this was to avoid problems with Buy American contract provisions. The Air Force then called for second BAFOs.

In its original protest, Zenith claimed that it was the only bidder that proposed an American-made coprocessor in its first see SETTLEMENT Page 72

SBA Applauds Switch to FTS

By S.A. MASUD
GCN Staff

The FTS 2000 contract has turned out to be a flexible vehicle for meeting federal agencies' telecommunications needs and has broken new ground for cooperation

between agencies and vendors, a senior Small Business Administration official said recently.

Jo Alice Ama, director of SBA's computer center in Washington, said that despite some slight slippage from the original installation

schedule, the switch to FTS 2000 for its data traffic has been a real plus for the agency.

"I've told our management this, and they agree the project is a success," she said.

SBA became the first federal see FTS Page 72



Trusted OS Technology Is Taking Off

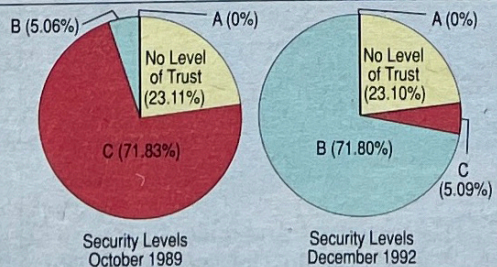
By DARRYL K. TAFT
GCN Staff

Over the next few years, vendors of secure operating system technology will offer federal agencies systems with higher security ratings, greater differentiation between products and more adherence to standards.

The National Computer Security Center (NCSC) also will deliver more information, guidance and assistance.

Corporations and government agencies spent more than \$500 million to repair security breaches and recover lost or damaged data in 1988, industry sources have said. The push toward decentralized or distributed computing has

Federal Government's Large Systems Are Becoming More Secure



Most large systems today (left) have a C rating, the National Computer Security Center reports. The center predicts that by the end of 1992, B will be the dominant level, as shown at right.

increased the need for trusted technology.

Although trusted operating systems cannot solve the problem altogether, they do help to lock out

unauthorized users who might read, copy, erase or alter data.

Officials at NCSC, part of the National Security Agency, predict substantial growth in the number of systems that will meet the requirements for higher security ratings, as established in NSA's Trusted Computer Security Evaluation Criteria document, also known as the Orange Book. see SECURE Page 36

Toting Up Federal Micros: Analysis Finds 1.6 Million

By CYNTHIA MORGAN
GCN Staff

How big really is the world's biggest microcomputer market?

One federal official has a stock answer to queries about how many microcomputers the government has: "1.5 million, give or take a million."

He is closer than he thinks.

Agencies are using a total of 1.6 million microcomputers, according to a new Government Computer News analysis.

By a coincidence, the most recent official estimate was precisely half the 1.6 million machines that GCN found. In 1988 the Office of Management and Budget estimated the number of federal micros at 800,000.

In its 1987 microcomputer survey, the General Services Administration placed the number of federal micros at 490,361. The report predicted additions of 200,000 units per year. This would put the 1989 total at about 900,000.

However, most analysts agree that official government figures on micros have been low. One reason is that machines used in classified operations, which GCN has estimated at 15 percent of the total, were not counted.

Discussion with many vendors who asked not to be identified gave GCN confidence in the 15 percent estimate for classified see NUMBER Page 72

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Microwave Package Doesn't Sacrifice Ethernet Speed

DATA LINES BY J.B. MILES

Bridging local area networks in federal agencies is nothing new. But bridging LANs at very low cost without sacrificing the 10-megabit/sec speed of Ethernet LANs is an unheard-of feat.

Enter Microwave Bypass Systems Inc. (MBS) of Braintree, Mass., which offers a microwave product it says can connect re-

mote LANs at low cost and maintain the 10-megabit/sec speed of Ethernet.

Now, I've no particular ax to grind, pro or con, about using microwave for short-haul data connectivity over rough or difficult terrain. Even with its obvious weaknesses in security and adverse weather conditions, microwave technology can be efficient and less-expensive under the

right conditions. But for bridging LANs at 10 megabits/sec? Unheard of.

Typically, most non-microwave LAN-to-LAN solutions involve interLAN bridges or gateways, devices that pass data traffic from one LAN to the other over public or private telephone lines.

The problem is they are too costly, too slow, or both. It's not that the bridging hardware itself is so expensive. But the installation costs for crossing a city street or river with dedicated data lines can be

prohibitive, not to mention the recurring monthly charges which, like death and taxes, will last forever.

As for speed, well, who wants to give up full Ethernet throughput for a costly dedicated 56-kilobit/sec connection, or a faster but still costly T1 circuit?

The president of MBS, David S. Theodore, said his product solves the LAN-to-LAN cost/speed conundrum because it was designed with the needs of Ethernet users in mind. The problem with most microwave manufacturers, he said, is that they are out of tune with LAN technology. Having dismissed Ethernet as a "special" application, they have focused mainly on T1 or 56-kilobit/sec channels for all data requirements.

Not so with MBS. The company focuses on extending the range of a typical LAN via a microwave bridge. This means that, by using an MBS turnkey microwave system, you ought to be able to link your cross-campus or cross-town Ethernet LANs at full speed as effectively as if you were using an Ethernet coaxial cable within a single building.

MBS has developed an Ethernet-to-microwave interface, the Etherwave Transceiver.

This is a LAN/microwave interface which, combined with MBS' LAN-Link 1000 Bridge, provides 10-megabit/sec throughput between multivendor Ethernet LANs for distances of up to five miles without a repeater (14 miles with a microwave repeater).

Basically, if you momentarily forget that you're transmitting via microwave, the Etherwave device acts like a standard Ethernet network transceiver. But because microwave radio is involved, the device connects to a LAN bridge and, by using it as a power source, converts digital signals to analog input for conversion at the other end.

Because the LAN-Link 1000 Bridge operates at the data link level it is protocol-independent. Therefore, it can handle most popular protocols, such as DECnet and TCP/IP, without external software and without losing Ethernet speed.

The entire MBS package is less than \$45,000 with licensing and training.

J.B. Miles writes about networking and wide area communications from San Francisco.

forms. One printer.

Offer your customers the new 8900 Series from Texas Instruments. Shared printers that print forms and more. For heavy-duty users — whatever their needs.

Now you can offer your customers a cost-saving, shared printer solution: one printer that serves a variety of users, prints a variety of forms and other documents, in a variety of business environments.

Lots of forms. Lots of speed. Lots of value.

The 8900 Series can print six- to nine-part forms at up to 400 characters per second, data processing applications at up to 600 cps, or correspondence at 100 cps in the letter quality mode. That kind of flexibility — not offered by many other printer manufacturers — makes the 8900 Series a natural for applications of all types.

What's more, these printers offer rugged reliability. Meantime between electronics failures is 9,000 hours with no duty cycle limitations. The 8900 Series can even replace some low-end line printers with its 16,000 pages* a month output capability.

Intelligent printing means easy printing.

What also sets 8900 series printers apart is their combination of intelligent forms handling with flexible printing and paper handling capabilities. For example, TI's special Z-Axis Control™

automatically senses a document's thickness and adjusts the printhead to its optimal position.

The Page Finder™ feature helps eliminate misaligned paper by automatically sensing the right and left margins, regardless of where the tractors are set or where the document is inserted. Plus, 8900 Series printers can automatically sense the top of forms to achieve zero tear-off. As a result, users don't have to worry about making adjustments themselves.

The 8900 Series also features a user-friendly control panel with a liquid crystal display. Users can select options like print quality, font styles, menu status and others with the touch of a Powerkey™ button.

More features in one product.

An 18-pin printhead ensures crisp, readable text, even on the last copy of up to nine-part forms. With five print speeds, the printers can handle high-speed reports as well as letter-quality correspondence.

Seven-color printing is also available. Some models offer a paper parking feature that enables users to feed a single form or other cut-sheet paper without having to disconnect the tractor feed. And you can deliver extra value by customizing the printers to meet your customers' unique needs.

The shared printer solution is a call away.

Find out today how you can become a TI reseller. Call 1-800-527-3500.

For single-user printing, offer TI's new 83X Series.

TI also provides you with a workstation printer solution. The Model 830 and 835 printers combine such personal printer features as an easy-to-use control panel and key forms printing features like short tear-off and a straight paper path.

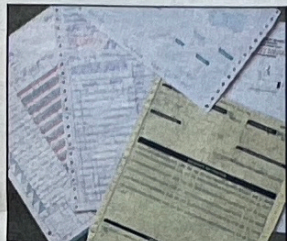
The Model 830 is a narrow carriage printer while the 835 has a wide carriage. Both printers feature such versatile paper handling characteristics as bottom, rear and top feed; automatic cut-sheet insertion; paper parking; and up to five-part forms printing.

You can also offer options like a user-installable serial interface board; a sheet feeder; and a pull tractor (required for bottom-feed paper handling).

Users can choose from three print speeds, including high-speed draft mode (300 cps), utility mode (250 cps) and near-letter quality mode (63 cps). Whether your customers need the multi-user 8900 Series or the single-user 83X Series, TI lets you offer the printers they need when their needs are demanding.



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*Based upon 2,000 characters per page.
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TI's 8900 Series prints a variety of forms for a variety of users.

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS

Fiorito to Oversee Bellcore Security

John F. Fiorito Jr., formerly assistant vice president of marketing services for Pacific Bell Telephone Co. of San Francisco, has been named head of the national security emergency preparedness (NSEP) organization at Bellcore.

Bellcore of Livingston, N.J., is the research and technical support arm of the seven regional Bell operating companies and two other telephone companies. Its NSEP organization is responsible for coordinating the maintenance of communication services for the federal government in times of emergencies.

The NSEP organization also is represented on the National Communications Telephone Advisory Committee, a group of 30 large companies that report to the president on matters involving emergency preparedness.

While at Pacific Bell, Fiorito was the local Bell company's NSEP representative. He succeeds Marvin W. Konow, who is retiring from Bellcore.