CB(1)986/02-03(05)

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LCQ16: Government's purchase of computer and software

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Following is a question by the Hon Chan Kwok-keung and a written reply by the Secretary for Information Technology and Broadcasting, Mrs Carrie Yau, in the Legislative Council today (February 27):

Question:

Will the Government inform this Council:

(a) of the user licence fees paid in the last financial year by government departments for each category of packaged computer operating system software and application software, and the first five software developers who are most patronised and the respective relevant fees; and

(b) in view of the domination of the packaged software market by a foreign software developer at present, whether government departments plan to use more software products of other developers?

Reply:

Madam President,

(a) According to the purchase record of Government's term contracts on computer software, Government's expenditure in the financial year 2000-01 on various types of packaged software is :

	Amount (HK$M)
Computer Operating Platform and System Software	61.77
Database Management System Software	11.433
Application Software	105.37

The first five suppliers of the above software (in terms of contract amounts) and the respective contract amounts are listed below:

Software Category	Name of Software Developer	Amount

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                                                    (HK$M)


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Computer Operating    IBM China / HK Ltd       20.46

Platform and System   Microsoft HK Ltd         19.29

Software              Novell HK Ltd             3.97

                      Computer Associates

                      International Ltd          3.45

                      DynaComware HK Ltd         3.33



Database Management   IBM China / HK Ltd        4.64

System Software       Oracle Systems HK Ltd     4.57

                      Microsoft HK Ltd          2.21

                      Sybase Inc.               0.01

                      Computer Associates

                      International Ltd         0.003



Application Software  Microsoft HK Ltd         67.47

                      IBM China / HK Ltd       13.56

                      Adobe System Inc.         5.67

                      Computer Associates

                      International Ltd          2.69

                      Symantec HK Ltd           2.13
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Remarks: Apart from term contracts, bureaux and departments can also purchase information technology products by themselves in accordance with the Government's procurement procedures.

(b) The selection of suppliers for Government term contracts on computer software is by open tender. At present, the Government uses a variety of computer operating system platforms and software products of various developers. In selecting developers, we will consider whether the software products are user-friendly and compatible with other software in use and planned to be used. We will also consider the Chinese processing support (e.g. ISO 10646 support), security features, technical support and cost effectiveness of these software products.

The Government has issued internal guidelines on product selection and technical information on new products of various developers for reference by Government departments. We also ensure that the procedures for purchasing different software products are equally simple and easy. In the light of market development, we have also encouraged developers of open source code software to promote their products to Government departments by conducting seminars, providing hotline support service and arranging training for interested Government users.

End/Wednesday, February 27, 2002

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