

OIAN XIAODUN / FOR CHINA DAILY

Yang Yuanqing, chairman and CEO of Lenovo Group, announces its agreement with EMC Corp on Wednesday. The two companies aim to boost their data-storage business in China.

Lenovo, EMC enter JV

By GAO YUAN gaoyuan@chinadaily.com.cn

Lenovo Group Ltd, the world's second-largest PC maker, signed an agreement on Wednesday with EMC Corp to develop and sell server and storage technologies amid slowing growth in the consumer sector and strong demand for enterprise equip-

TECH ment.

Analysts believe the partnership will cement Lenovo's position in the server and storage sectors and give EMC, the US-based data-management company, greater access to the Chinese market.

As part of the deal, the two companies will develop x86 industry-standard servers, which will be marketed by Lenovo, said Yang Yuanqing, Lenovo chairman and CEO. He did not release a schedule

China Center Place - 华贸中心

Gemdale Int'l Garden - 金地国际花园

28r. 155sgm middle floor

2Br. 148sgm middle floor

38r. 200sqm south facing

211sqm high floor

384

2Br

38r.

3Br.

¥ 13,000

¥ 22,000

¥ 13,000

¥ 23,000

135sqm good view 170sqm middle floo

260sqm garden viev

4Br. 228sgm high floor Star River - 星河湾

3+1Br. 320som nice garden

4Br. S00sqm duplex

for the servers.

"Lenovo is good at manufacturing hardware. Although the making and marketing of enterprise equipment differs from consumer products, there is still a lot that we can adopt from our consumer PC team," Yang said.

"The partnership provides a boost that will help Lenovo develop x86 server products targeting the global market," said Bryan Wang, vice-president and principal analyst at Forrester Research Inc.

More than 90 percent of Lenovo's server business targets the Chinese market, said Wang, adding that Lenovo is looking to enter the global market with the new ThinkServer brand.

Lenovo accounted for 15 percent of China's server market in the second quarter.

Analysts said the partnership may suggest Lenovo is finding

new growth businesses as the global consumer-PC market slows down.

The global PC market saw limited growth and had weak performance in the first quarter of this year, said an IDC report released in July. The report warned that the annual increase rate in the sector could hit a new

low of 5 percent in 2012. "There is no doubt that Lenovo expects its enterprise business to generate more profits, especially when growth of the PC sector slows," Wang said. "But it will take at least 18 month before its plans really

start to boost sales." "Although China's server market is not the biggest globally, the increase was prominent during the past two years," said Chen Xudong, Lenovo's

China president. EMC is also relying on Lenovo's strong sales network in Chi-

na to accelerate its expansion.

"The relationship with Lenovo represents a powerful opportunity for EMC to significantly expand our presence in China and extend it to other parts of the world," said Joe Tucci, EMC chairman and CEO.

The deal also enables Lenovo to manufacture and resell EMC storage products. The sales will start on the Chinese mainland and then expand to other markets.

Lenovo was a newcomer in the data-storage industry, in which global players such as IBM and Oracle Corp have had established industrial supply chains for years.

"IBM's biggest customers are large conglomerates, but we set our target customer as the small and medium-sized enterprise, so there will be no direct competition anytime soon," said Yang.

¥24,000

20.000

¥ 40,000

ing Riviera - 香江花园

Johnson & Johnson said to buy local baby-care brand

rumors, referring instead to a

statement that said the com-

pany's goal has always been

"to provide the Chinese con-

sumer, including parents and

their babies in China, with

safe, gentle, mild personal-

care products that they can

trust and use with confidence".

by industry insiders as one of

the most progressive baby-

care product manufacturers

According to the company's

website, it has spent about 10

million euros (\$12.31 million)

to establish a production base

that meets the Council of

Europe's Guidelines on Good

Manufacturing Practice of

Cosmetic Products, reach-

ing a sales receivable of about

300 million yuan, a number

substantial enough to make

it as competitive as Johnson

The baby-care industry

in China has been expand-

ing rapidly. According to

the studies by Euromonitor

International, a London-

based consumer market

research firm, the retail value

of baby and child-specific

hair care reached 511 mil-

lion yuan in 2011, up about

16.8 percent year-on-year.

The retail value of baby and

child-specific skin care rose

to 2.03 billion yuan by the

end of 2011, up about 17.35

percent year-on-year. This

number is predicted to reach

Johnson & Johnson has

4.71 billion yuan by 2016.

in China.

& Johnson.

Elsker is widely considered

Rumored deal would further boost US firm's dominating market share

By SHI JING in Shanghai shijing@chinadaily.com.cn

The multibillion-dollar baby-care market has been rife with rumors in recent weeks that the US consumerproduct vendor Johnson & Johnson has made a bid for Shanghai-based Elsker for about \$100 mil-

RETAIL lion.

Such a transaction, if it were to go through, would provide Johnson & Johnson, which has an extensive sales network in China, an even more dominating share of the ballooning babycare market, with annual sales estimated to reach 2 billion yuan (\$310 million) by the end of 2015.

Established in 2006 and with a strong Danish connection, Elsker posted annual sales of 400 million yuan for 2011, up 73 percent from a year before, according to earlier Chinese media reports. On its official website, the company said its products, including shampoo, body lotion and cream, are marketed in most Chinese provinces.

Johnson & Johnson, which entered the Chinese market in the early 1980s, has been expanding rapidly in recent years. It acquired Beijing Dabao Cosmetics Co Ltd in July 2008 for an estimated 2.3 billion yuan. Dabao SOD Milk Cream once had more than 15 percent of the skin-oil market share in China.

A Johnson & Johnson always been taking the lead spokesman declined to comin terms of the market shares of hair, skin- and sun-care ment on the latest acquisition

products in China, according to Euromonitor. It accounts for more than 50 percent of the market share in the three categories.

Runners-up include Henkel AG & Co KGaA of Germany, Amway Corp of the United States and Pigeon Corp of Japan. Shuangfei Daily Chemicals Co Ltd from Fujian province is one of the few Chinese companies able to compete with the overseas giants.

The wave of overseas leading companies that seek to take over Chinese homegrown companies started in late 2003 when the French cosmetics and beauty company L'Oreal Group bought the Shenzhen-based Mininurse skin-care brand.

The Paris-based perfume maker Coty Inc acquired the Chinese skin-care company TJoy Holdings Ltd in December 2010 for \$400 million. Coincidentally, Liu Xiaokun, founder of Shanghai Elsker, is a former sales director of TJoy.

But Ge Wenyao, chairman of Shanghai Jahwa, the largest Chinese manufacturer of cosmetics and healthcare products, sees the overseas tycoons slowing down their pace of acquiring Chinese homegrown brands, as the economies of the European and American countries continue to struggle.

"The threshold of the Chinese daily-chemical industry is set quite low. Quite a number of these domestic companies cannot get themselves accustomed to the corporate culture of the overseas buyer. That's why I consider most of the acquisitions in this industry unsuccessful so far," Ge said.

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48r.

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