

The Digital Education Revolution is here

1 April 2009

Premier Nathan Rees today announced that a \$150 million contract to build up to 267,000 laptops has been awarded to Lenovo (Australia and New Zealand) Pty Ltd.

“Production of the new laptops for the state’s 200,000 senior secondary school students and 25,000 secondary teachers will begin immediately,” Mr Rees said.

”I want them in classrooms as soon as possible.

“NSW public schools lead the nation in providing computer resources, giving our teachers and our young people the vital skills they need to help them succeed in our IT savvy world.

“Agreements have also been signed with Microsoft and Adobe giving students and teachers access to the largest and most comprehensive roll-out of software in any education system worldwide.

“The combination of the laptops and the software contracts we have signed will open our classrooms up to the world.”

Mr Rees said that the NSW Government will invest a further \$25.5 million in the provision of software, on top of Federal Government funding.

“Part of this includes a \$20 million agreement with Adobe - \$12 million from the NSW Government and \$8 million from the Federal Government.

“Using this software, students will be able to create videos, edit photos and make presentations for class assignments and projects.

“Students and teachers will also be able to set up video conferencing and collaborate on assignments using the built in web cameras and software within the department’s secure network.

“The Adobe software will be available not only on the laptops but for all computers in NSW public schools and TAFE colleges.

“NSW will also finance the agreement with Microsoft to include Office Professional on all the new laptops.”

Mr Rees said that this means students will have their own access to all the programs commonly found in the modern office workplace, including Word, Excel and Power Point.

“The deal with Microsoft is a world first in student licensing, based on a per student approach rather than licensing per device.

“We are putting software that would cost more than \$5,500 if purchased in a store on each laptop at no cost to the student or teacher.

“The Rudd Government’s Digital Education Revolution coupled with further financial investment from New South Wales will transform teaching and learning.

“I want kids more engaged in the classroom, turning up to school enthusiastic and ready to learn.”

The announcement comes at the end of an extremely competitive tender process, which started last December just days after the funding package for the program was finalised.

Mr Rees said that the Rudd Government was providing \$386 million for the roll-out of laptops for NSW public senior secondary school students.

“In May we will begin wirelessly connecting high schools and recruiting more than 400 full-time technical support officers to assist staff and students in secondary schools across the State with IT issues,” Mr Rees said.

“Secondary teachers will begin receiving laptops during Term 2, 2009 to coincide with their professional learning programs.

“Students and teachers will be using the same technology, and we’re giving our teachers a head start to familiarise themselves with the technology before it hits the classroom.

“The roll-out of laptops to students will begin in Term Three to Year 9 students.”

Minister for Education and Training Verity Firth said the laptops had been designed specifically to meet the needs of the State’s students.

“The new laptops will be safe and secure, with filters to block inappropriate material and encoding to ensure they aren’t a target of theft.

“The new laptops are highly specified with 10.2” screens, large 160gb hard disks, 2gb memory and extended battery life.

“Year 9 students will be able to personalise their laptop making it easy to identify and creating a sense of ownership.

“This is an exciting time for NSW public schools.”

Parliamentary Secretary Maxine McKew said that the National Secondary School Computer Fund is a partnership between the Commonwealth and NSW Government and all educational jurisdictions.

“These initiatives will improve our secondary school students’ access to information, and take us further towards a world- class education system.”

Each student and teacher laptop will include:

- Adobe Photoshop Elements
- Adobe Premier Elements
- Adobe Acrobat Professional Extended
- Adobe Flash CS4 Professional
- Adobe Dreamweaver CS4
- Adobe Fireworks CS4
- Adobe Contribute CS4
- Adobe Presenter
- Adobe Captivate CS4

- Microsoft Windows XP Professional and utilities
- Microsoft Word 2007
- Microsoft Excel 2007
- Microsoft Publisher 2007
- Microsoft PowerPoint 2007
- Microsoft OneNote 2007
- Microsoft Access 2007