

22 March 2006

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## **Apple Gets Contract for 36,000 iBooks**

*Apple's educational presence continues to be strong....*

Apple Computer, Inc was selected as the top bidder for services and equipment for the Maine Learning Technology Initiative. On the 13th of January, the Maine Department of Education issued a request for a four-year agreement to provide personal, portable computing devices with suitable basic applications for all 7th and 8th grade students and teachers along with upgraded wireless networks for all participating middle schools, appropriate server capacity, training and technical support. Apple is now to begin the negotiations to finalize the terms and conditions of the agreement for the services and equipment. "We are pleased with the strong educational focus of Apple's proposal, and we look forward to a continued partnership in providing the students of Maine the tools and resources for the 21st Century," commented Bette Manchester, Director of Special Projects for the Department of Education, in a statement. It is estimated that over 36,000 laptops will be deployed as part of the initiative, at the start of the new school year. An overview of the components of the bid as proposed by Apple Computer: Professional Development: Summer 2006 training for teachers, principals and tech coordinators and ongoing professional development. Per Seat Cost: \$289; Device Description: Apple iBook 12.1", 1.33 Ghz G4, 1GB RAM, 40 GB, 802.11b/g, 10/100 ethernet, Bluetooth 2.0 EDR, slot-load CDRW-DVD ROM (24x CD-R, 16x CDRW, 8x DVD-ROM, 24x CD-ROM), 4.9 lbs; Applications: Pages, Appleworks, Mail, Dictionary & Thesaurus, Grapher, Keynote, iWeb, iMovie HD, iPhoto, iDVD, GarageBand, iTunes, Safari, iChatAV, iCal, Preview (<http://www.apple.com/software/>), NoteTaker (<http://www.aquaminds.com>), NeoOffice (<http://www.neooffice.org/>), Pasco DataStudio (<http://www.pasco.com/datastudio/>), GRASS GIS (<http://grass.itc.it/>), GIMP (<http://www.gimp.org/>), World Book Encyclopedia ([http://mackiev.com/world\\_book.html](http://mackiev.com/world_book.html)), Journler (<http://journler.phildow.net/>), Anti-virus software; Communication: Mac OS X Server hosted POP accounts for all users, private messaging accounts inside StudyWiz hosted environment for all users; Collaboration: Hosted StudyWiz environment (<http://www.studywiz.com/>); Software Updating: Apple Remote Desktop, 2 admin licenses per school; Software Restore: MLTI Firewire Restore method. 1 drive per 30 student devices deployed; Operating System: Mac OS 10.4.x, Apple Maintenance Program, includes all Operating System revisions for the term of the contract; Wireless Network: Apple will expand network coverage as necessary to meet requirements. Will upgrade all switches and access points (Airport Extreme, 802.11g). If necessary, Apple will use PoE; Support: Extended warranty coverage for the term of the contract. Spare devices allocated to each school. Apple will provide 1-800 Help Desk services; Backups: Users have off-site storage using backup solution software, 100MB per student, 500 MB per teacher.