

Fearless Flossie set to launch

SYDNEY – **Flossie.com**, claimed to be Australia's first female-centric masthead site and due for launch next month, says it has signed 45 sites and reached its launch target of a million Australian unique users.

The masthead's success in bringing together the "best of the best" female-focused Web sites has been well received by Australian advertisers, says **Jenene Freer**, CEO of **Flossie Media Group**. **Procter and Gamble** will be one of the launch advertisers.

The 45 sites cover niche areas including entertainment, business, relationships, craft, pets, children, holidays and health.

ACS awards hit \$1mil in West

PERTH – The WA chapter of the **Australian Computer Society Foundation** says it has awarded \$1 million dollars worth of scholarships in IT higher education and research.

The WA chapter has awarded more than 155 government- and industry-sponsored scholarships, this year alone said to be worth more than \$240,00.

ACS Foundation scholars from WA include two **Microsoft** internships in the US, a **Google** internship and finalists in the **WA Information Technology and Telecommunications Awards**. Other organisations providing scholarships in WA include **IBM**, **Western Power**, **CSG**, **Ingres**, **Rusty**, **CSC**, **Conducive** and **ZettaServe**.

No Welshing on this deal

SYDNEY – ASX-listed **Objective Corporation** will have its loyalties strained in the next Rugby championships. It's picked up a \$10 million software and services contract from the **Welsh Assembly Government**.

Objective will deliver an enterprise-wide system that it says will position the Welsh parliament in the forefront of public-sector information management.

People, people

● Application delivery networking supplier **Blue Coat Systems** has appointed **Peter Owen** director of channels for Australia and NZ. Previously he was responsible for the ANZ southern region.

Java hitch in Oracle's Sun bid

SAN FRANCISCO – The US **Justice Department** has extended its investigation into **Oracle's** proposed acquisition of **Sun Microsystems**. The 30-day period to review the \$7.4 billion deal was set to expire at midnight on Friday. The Justice Department made a second request, which asks the companies to provide more information.

Daniel Wall, an attorney who represents Oracle, said it's all about "one narrow issue" – how the rights to Sun's Java technology are licensed. "I fully expect the investigation will end soon and not delay the closing of the deal," Wall said.

Sun shareholders are to vote on the deal on July 16.

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Computer Daily News is published by David Frith Computer Services, PO Box 906, Milsons Point, NSW 2061.

Phone: (02) 8920 2398

Fax: (02) 9954 5963

E-Mail: dfrith@ozemail.com.au

Managing editor: David Frith

Co-editors: John Stackhouse

Kate Castellari

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Bigger Global Hawk unveiled

LOS ANGELES – **Northrop Grumman** and the **US Air Force** have shown the next-generation of the **Global Hawk** unmanned aerial vehicle, dubbed **RQ-4 Block 40**. The aircraft uses active electronic scanned array (AESA) technology to provide all-weather, day-night mapping and an indicator of moving targets on the ground.

Up to now most of the **Global Hawk's** development – in which Australia is involved – has been through the **US Navy** but **USAF** wants to expand its role supporting intelligence-gathering and reconnaissance.



The new aircraft will carry up to 1360kg of internal payload and will have more than twice the power of its predecessor. It uses open-system architecture, with a plug-and-play environment to accommodate new sensors and communication systems as they are developed.

Germany is buying the **Euro Hawk**, a derivative specialising in electronic intelligence gathering. Australia has indicated an interest in the family to support a new maritime reconnaissance squadron, but lower-cost rivals have since been developed.

Key change at Lenovo

SAN FRANCISCO — **Lenovo** has gone where few computer designers have dared go before with the design of its new **ThinkPad T400s** (*CDN, Thursday*): it's changed the layout of the keyboard.

After nearly a year of research it decided to go ahead with extra-large "Delete" and "Escape" keys. Now it's anxiously awaiting reaction. Says **David Hill**, vice president of corporate identity and design at **Lenovo**, "Any time you start messing around with the keyboard, people get nervous." An ex-IBMer, he recalls the uproar when **Big Blue** shifted the Shift key on early model PCs.

But after **Lenovo** R&D teams found that average users