15 surprises ahead in 2007

BUSINESS 2.0

Business 2.0's Chris Taylor highlights the most significant innovations, events and launches that are planned for the New Year.

A $100 PC hits the third world

If all goes according to Nicholas Negroponte's plan, there will be 10 million PCs in the hands of the planet's poorest children by the end of 2007. The $100 laptop, which technologist Negroponte and his MIT team have been working on for the better part of a decade, goes on sale in the spring. (Initially, the price will be $150.) Out of necessity, its various versions boast the most sophisticated low-energy computer tech ever seen - like a hand-crank power source and a chipset that consumes 13 percent of the normal wattage - and mesh networking so kids can share files without a server. Argentina, Brazil, Nigeria, and Thailand are lining up to buy them.