First 1,000 XO Laptops Roll Off the Assembly Line in Shanghai

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One Laptop per Child (OLPC) announced today a major milestone in its mission to develop a low-cost laptop to eliminate global poverty by advancing the education of children in developing countries. The first 1,000 XO laptops have rolled off the assembly line at Quanta Computer's manufacturing facility in Shanghai. Quanta Computer, the world's largest manufacturer of notebook computers (approximately one-in-three notebook computers in the world are manufactured by the company), has devoted significant engineering and manufacturing resources to bring the OLPC product to market.

The first machines will be put through rigorous environmental testing that will simulate the harsh conditions under which the laptops will ultimately be used. Tests will include dropping the XOs from various heights, children pounding on the keyboards, and making sure the encasements are dirt and dust resistant. Software developers will also receive units to debug the software and applications that make up the operating system.

Following the completion of this phase of testing, the next units to be manufactured by Quanta in early 2007 will go to school children in Argentina, Brazil, Libya, Nigeria and Thailand – the first countries to participate in the OLPC initiative. These units will be used by the children in real-life conditions as the final phase of testing before mass production begins in the summer of 2007.

About One Laptop per Child

One Laptop per Child (OLPC) is a non-profit organization created by Nicholas Negroponte and other faculty members from the MIT Media Lab to design, manufacture and distribute laptops that are sufficiently inexpensive to provide every child in the world access to knowledge and modern forms of education. The laptops will be sold to governments and issued to children by schools on a basis of one laptop per child. These machines will be rugged, open source, and so energy efficient that they can be powered by a child manually. Mesh networking will give many machines Internet access from one connection. The pricing goal will start near $100 and then steadily decrease.

Source: Business Wire
OLPC is the wrong solution for using IT to improve education in many of the countries named. So fat the cost has almost doubled (probably quadrupled, or more if you consider the TCO) the much hyped wind-up power system dumped, etc. When this was launched Kofi Annan broke the handle off and the investor of the wind-up radio said that their planned system wouldn't produce enough power (and it didn't). No body is arguing against education as a key driver to alleviate poverty, but is this the right route or just an interesting idea which is long on hype and short on reality? The later I suspect.

Dear readers I have noticed some printing errors in some words in the last sentences. They should read like this: “So let us work together on this. I can be contacted through this e-mail: byabato@googlemail.com Congratulations once again” Please forgive my printing errors. It seems that my right hand has a tendency to shift one letter to the right. Best regards K.Byabato

Congratulations to OLPC for this milestone. I would like to be the Distribution Agent for these laptops in the East African Region especially Tanzania. As far as this region is concerned, for the children of this region to be able to benefit substantially from this project, some more work needs to be done in the translation of software user interface into Kiswahili language which is the most widely spoken language for common people and their children. So let is work together on this. I cam be contacted through this e-mail: byabato@googlemail.com Congratulations once again

1. Posted by island boy on 11/28/2006, 23:03
the country that can first sell a 100 dollar laptop will conquer the IT market.

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