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H-P gets go-ahead to take over 3Com

TELEGRAM & GAZETTE STAFF

MARLBORO — Today, 3Com Corp. and Hewlett-Packard Co. received approval from China's Ministry of Commerce for H-P's acquisition of Marlboro-based 3Com.

H-P, based in Palo Alto, Calif., agreed in November to pay \$3 billion for computer networking and switching-gear maker 3Com Corp., with an aim to expand its product portfolio, increase sales in the fast-growing Chinese market and better compete with Cisco Systems.

The approval under China's anti-monopoly law is the last of the required regulatory approvals. The parties expect to close the transaction on or about April 12, 3Com said today in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

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