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HEWLETT PACKARD CO
Form 425
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Subject Company: Compaq Computer Corporation
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This filing relates to a planned merger (the "Merger") between Hewlett-Packard Company ("HP") and Compaq Computer Corporation ("Compaq") pursuant to the terms of an Agreement and Plan of Reorganization, dated as of September 4, 2001 (the "Merger Agreement"), by and among HP, Heloise Merger Corporation and Compaq. The Merger Agreement is on file with the Securities and Exchange Commission as an exhibit to the Current Report on Form 8-K, as amended, filed by Hewlett-Packard Company on September 4, 2001, and is incorporated by reference into this filing.

The following article relating to the Merger discusses Compaq's announcement regarding fourth quarter, fiscal year 2001 results. The article is posted on HP's internal web site.

COMPAQ REPORTS Q4, FY01 RESULTS

Compaq Computer Corporation (NYSE: CPQ) today reported financial results for the fourth quarter ended December 31, 2001, exceeding analysts' expectations. Revenue for the fourth quarter was \$8.5 billion, an improvement of \$1 billion -- or 14 percent -- sequentially, and down 26 percent year-over-year. Net income for the quarter was \$92 million, or \$0.05 per diluted common share. Excluding a \$36 million charge for merger-related expenses, the company earned \$0.06 per share.

"Our fourth quarter results clearly demonstrate Compaq's strong focus on execution and solid market momentum," said Michael Capellas, chairman and chief executive officer. "Early last year, we outlined three strategic objectives for the company: extend our enterprise capabilities, grow and achieve critical mass in global services, and improve the economics of our PC business while increasing the velocity of our supply chain. There is still work to do, but we have made significant headway."

Highlights from Compaq's announcement included:

- o ENTERPRISE BUSINESS -- Solid sequential growth in all enterprise businesses. Revenue from the Enterprise Computing segment -- built on the pillars of fault-tolerant and high-performance computing, enterprise storage and industry standard servers -- was up 15 percent from the third quarter to \$2.7 billion.
- o SERVICES BUSINESS -- Compaq Global Services continued to be the company's strongest segment, with revenue of approximately \$2 billion, showing 8 percent sequential growth and 4 percent growth over the prior year period. Operating profit was \$253 million or 12 percent of revenue. The services business now comprises 24 percent of Compaq's revenue.
- o GROSS MARGINS -- Fourth quarter gross margin, as a percentage of revenue, was 20.6 percent, up 1.2 points sequentially, reflecting volume increases and mix improvements. Gross margins in PCs increased a full 3 points.

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- o OPERATING EXPENSES -- Fourth quarter operating expenses were \$1.54 billion, a sequential reduction despite a \$1 billion increase in revenue, and down approximately \$500 million year over year.

FULL-YEAR 2001 RESULTS

Revenue for the year ended December 31, 2001, totaled \$33.6 billion, a decrease of 21 percent from the prior year. Excluding special items for the year, net income was \$256 million, or \$0.15 per diluted common share, down 85 percent from the prior year. Reported net income for the full year was a loss of \$785 million, or (\$0.47) per common share.

BUSINESS OUTLOOK

"While we did see some strengthening of the IT market in the fourth quarter, first half growth will be moderate and pent-up demand should drive a stronger recovery in the second half of the year. Accordingly, we expect first quarter revenue of approximately \$7.6 billion and EPS of \$0.01, consistent with normal seasonal trends," Capellas said.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This document contains forward-looking statements that involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions. If any of these risks or uncertainties materializes or any of these assumptions proves incorrect, the results of HP and its consolidated subsidiaries could differ materially from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements.

All statements other than statements of historical fact are statements that could be deemed forward-looking statements, including any projections of earnings, revenues, synergies, accretion or other financial items; any statements of the plans, strategies, and objectives of management for future operations, including the execution of integration and restructuring plans and the anticipated timing of filings, approvals and closings relating to the Merger or other planned acquisitions; any statements concerning proposed new products, services, developments or industry rankings; any statements regarding future economic conditions or performance; any statements of belief and any statements of assumptions underlying any of the foregoing.

The risks, uncertainties and assumptions referred to above include the ability of HP to retain and motivate key employees; the timely development, production and acceptance of products and services and their feature sets; the challenge of managing asset levels, including inventory; the flow of products into third-party distribution channels; the difficulty of keeping expense growth at modest levels while increasing revenues; the challenges of integration and restructuring associated with the Merger or other planned acquisitions and the challenges of achieving anticipated synergies; the possibility that the Merger or other planned acquisitions may not close or that HP, Compaq or other parties to planned acquisitions may be required to modify some aspects of the acquisition transactions in order to obtain regulatory approvals; the assumption of maintaining revenues on a combined company basis following the close of the Merger or other planned acquisitions; and other risks that are described from time to time in HP's Securities and Exchange Commission reports, including but not limited to the annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended October 31, 2000 and HP's amended registration statement on Form S-4 filed on January 14, 2002.

HP assumes no obligation and does not intend to update these forward-looking statements.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE MERGER AND WHERE TO FIND IT

On January 14, 2002, HP filed an amended registration statement with the SEC containing an amended preliminary joint proxy statement/prospectus regarding the Merger. Investors and security holders of HP and Compaq are urged to read the amended preliminary joint proxy statement/prospectus filed with the SEC on January 14, 2002 and the definitive joint proxy statement/prospectus when it becomes available and any other relevant materials filed by HP or Compaq with the SEC because they contain, or will contain, important information about HP, Compaq and the Merger. The definitive joint proxy statement/prospectus will be sent to the security holders of HP and Compaq seeking their approval of the proposed transaction. The amended preliminary joint proxy statement/prospectus filed with the SEC on January 14, 2002, the definitive joint proxy statement/prospectus and other relevant materials (when they become available), and any other documents filed by HP or Compaq with the SEC, may be obtained free of charge at the SEC's web site at www.sec.gov. In addition, investors and security holders may obtain free copies of the documents filed with the SEC by HP by contacting HP Investor Relations, 3000 Hanover Street, Palo Alto, California 94304, 650-857-1501. Investors and security holders may obtain free copies of the documents filed with the SEC by Compaq by contacting Compaq Investor Relations, P.O. Box 692000, Houston, Texas 77269-2000, 800-433-2391. Investors and security holders are urged to read the definitive joint proxy statement/prospectus and the other relevant materials when they become available before making any voting or investment decision with respect to the Merger.

HP, Carleton S. Fiorina, HP's Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, Robert P. Wayman, HP's Executive Vice President, Finance and Administration and Chief Financial Officer, and certain of HP's other executive officers and directors may be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of proxies from the shareowners of HP and Compaq in favor of the Merger. The other executive officers and directors of HP who may be participants in the solicitation of proxies in connection with the Merger have not been determined as of the date of this filing. A description of the interests of Ms. Fiorina, Mr. Wayman and HP's other executive officers and directors in HP is set forth in the proxy statement for HP's 2001 Annual Meeting of Shareowners, which was filed with the SEC on January 25, 2001. Investors and security holders may obtain more detailed information regarding the direct and indirect interests of Ms. Fiorina, Mr. Wayman and HP's other executive officers and directors in the Merger by reading the amended preliminary joint proxy statement/prospectus filed with the SEC on January 14, 2002 and the definitive joint proxy statement/prospectus when it becomes available.

Pursuant to an engagement letter dated July 25, 2001, HP retained Goldman, Sachs & Co. ("Goldman Sachs") to act as its financial advisor in connection with the Merger. In connection with the engagement of Goldman Sachs as financial advisor, HP anticipates that employees of Goldman Sachs may communicate in person, by telephone or otherwise with certain institutions, brokers or other persons who are shareowners for the purpose of assisting in the solicitation of proxies in favor of the Merger. Although Goldman Sachs does not admit that it or any of its directors, officers, employees or affiliates is a "participant," as defined in Schedule 14A under the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or that Schedule 14A requires the disclosure of certain information concerning them in connection with the Merger, Gene Sykes (Managing Director), Matthew L'Heureux (Managing Director), George Lee (Vice President) and Jean Manas (Vice President), in each case of Goldman Sachs, may assist HP in the solicitation of proxies in favor of the Merger.

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Compaq and Michael D. Capellas, Compaq's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, and certain of Compaq's other executive officers and directors may be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of proxies from the shareowners of Compaq and HP in favor of the Merger. The other executive officers and directors of Compaq who may be participants in the solicitation of proxies in connection with the Merger have not been determined as of the date of this filing. A description of the interests of Mr. Capellas and Compaq's other executive officers and directors in Compaq is set forth in the proxy statement for Compaq's 2001 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, which was filed with the SEC on March 12, 2001. Investors and security holders may obtain more detailed information regarding the direct and indirect interests of Mr. Capellas and Compaq's other executive officers and directors in the Merger by reading the amended preliminary joint proxy statement/prospectus filed with the SEC on January 14, 2002 and the definitive joint proxy statement/prospectus when it becomes available.

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