

LOUISIANA STATE GOVERNMENT SPENDING ON RESTRICTED TECHNOLOGY

FEBRUARY 2023

Overview

- Between 2019 and 2023, the state of Louisiana spent \$41,241 on restricted Chinese technology from Lexmark, Inc and Lenovo, Inc. Just a few of the agencies holding sensitive information that have purchased these products include:
 - The Office of the Attorney General
 - The Office of Technology Services

Recent Progress

- In 2020 and 2021, Louisiana policymakers passed two laws that banned all state government agencies and publicly funded schools, universities, and other educational institutions from buying ICTS covered under Section 889.

The Problem

- Chinese government-owned technology manufacturers Lenovo and Lexmark have been restricted from U.S. military and intelligence agencies due to their connection to the Chinese government and military. While federal policy directs information security at the federal level, states must determine their own security standards making states vulnerable to intrusion through the purchase of these risky Chinese technology products. For more detail on these two manufacturers and others, see our briefing paper at www.StatesStopChinaTech.com.

The Process

- In January 2023, China Tech Threat (CTT) obtained Louisiana's detailed financial records of payments to Lexmark and Lenovo, showing amounts, dates and check numbers, payor agencies or departments, and descriptions of services from Checkbook.La.Gov, the state's online checkbook maintained by the Division of Administration and made available to improve transparency.
- However, purchases of restricted technology through third-party resellers, which can be significant, are not yet captured in our research. For example, in Louisiana, CDWG, SMA, SHI, Kynetic Technology, Woodard Technologies (dba TwoTrees), GovConnection, Firefly, Broadway Typewriter Company, Inc. (dba Arey Jones), General Informatics, LATB, and Trinity3 Technology are identified as [qualified resellers](#) by the National Association of State Procurement Officers. Any future efforts to identify and

restrict purchases of Chinese-owned technology manufacturers should include resellers.

Lenovo

Between 2019 and 2021, the state of Louisiana purchased \$31,891 of Lenovo technology.

In 2021, \$6,034 Of Lenovo technology purchased, including:

- Office of the Attorney General: \$5,929
- Select purchases by Special Schools and Commissions

In 2020, \$12,580 of Lenovo technology purchased, including:

- All purchases by the Office of the State Library

In 2019, \$13,277 of Lenovo technology purchased, including:

- All purchases by the Office of the State Library
-

Lexmark

Between 2022 and 2023, the state of Louisiana purchased \$9,350 of Lexmark technology:

- All technology purchased by the Office of Technology Services of the Department of Administration.