

# OHIO STATE GOVERNMENT SPENDING ON RESTRICTED TECHNOLOGY

FEBRUARY 2023

## Overview

- Between 2016 and 2022, the state of Ohio spent \$240,194 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 Department of Rehabilitation and Correction: \$117,713

## 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](http://www.StatesStopChinaTech.com).

## The Process

- On August 15, 2022, China Tech Threat (CTT) reached out to the Ohio Department of Administration requesting documents relevant to Lexmark and Lenovo, requesting exact numbers, dollars spent, products and services purchased, and the quantity of products and services purchased. Following a series of subsequent emails and phone calls to advance the request, CTT did not receive a response. CTT was able to access financial information for years 2016 to 2022 through Ohio Checkbook, the state's public financial database.
- However, purchases of restricted technology through third-party resellers, which can be significant, are not yet captured in our research. Any future efforts to identify and restrict purchases of Chinese-owned technology manufacturers should include resellers.

## Lexmark

Between 2016 and 2022, the state of Ohio purchased \$157,194 of Lexmark technology.

In 2022, \$1,804 of Lexmark technology purchased:

- The Bureau of Workers Compensation

In 2019, \$1,899 of Lexmark technology purchased, including:

- The Department of Natural Resources: \$1,124
- Select purchases by the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

In 2018, \$57,770 of Lexmark technology purchased, including:

- The Department of Rehabilitation and Correction: \$44,824
- The Bureau of Workers Compensation: \$10,287
- Select purchases by the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

In 2017, \$47,124 of Lexmark technology purchased, including:

- The Department of Rehabilitation and Correction: \$36,324
- The Department of Job and Family Services: \$3,055
- Select purchases by the Bureau of Workers Compensation and the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

In 2016, \$48,597 of Lexmark technology purchased, including:

- The Department of Rehabilitation and Correction: \$36,324
- The Bureau of Workers Compensation: \$5,866
- Select purchases by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction, the Department of Public Safety, and the Department of Medicaid

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## Lenovo

Between 2016 and 2022, the state of Ohio purchased \$83,000 of Lenovo technology.

In 2022, \$241 of Lenovo technology purchased:

- Select purchases by the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction and the Environmental Protection Agency



In 2021, \$243 of Lenovo technology purchased:

- The Broadcast Educational Media Commission

In 2020, \$1,602 of Lenovo technology purchased:

- Select purchases by the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

In 2019, \$78,803 of technology purchased, including:

- The Department of Higher Education: \$77,948
- Select purchases by the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Agency

In 2017, select purchases of Lenovo technology:

- The Department of Transportation

In 2016, select purchases of Lenovo technology:

- The Department of Health

In 2015, there were \$1,571 of Lenovo technology purchased:

- The Environmental Protection Agency