

# Briefs: Seagate boosts hard-drive factory capacity

December 22 2005

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Seagate Technology increased its market share and production capacity for computer hard drives through its acquisition of rival Maxtor.

The stock deal announced Wednesday will cost Seagate nearly \$2 billion and will increase the Silicon Valley company's share of the world hard-drive market from 28 percent to a whopping 42 percent, according to the Los Angeles Times.

Seagate is already the world's largest hard-drive producer.

Seagate said in its official statement that the acquisition, expected to receive regulatory approval in the second half of 2006, would achieve significant cost reductions and improved efficiency.

Analysts told the Times that the deal also brings additional production capacity to Seagate at a time when demand for hard drives for commercial electronics is growing.

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Citation: Briefs: Seagate boosts hard-drive factory capacity (2005, December 22) retrieved 3 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2005-12-seagate-boosts-hard-drive-factory-capacity.html>

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