

EU extends Oracle/Sun review deadline until Jan 27

November 20 2009

(AP) -- European Union regulators said Friday that they have extended until Jan. 27 a deadline to wrap up their antitrust review of Oracle Corp.'s planned \$7.4 billion takeover of Sun Microsystems Inc.

The [European Commission](#) said Oracle had asked for more time "in order to have the opportunity to further develop its arguments in response to the Commission's concerns."

The EU executive gave them an extra six working days.

Regulators sent a formal charge sheet to Oracle earlier this month laying out competition problems that they see with the deal, claiming Oracle's purchase of open-source database software MySQL could eliminate a crucial rival and hike prices.

The EU can block the [takeover](#) - which has already been approved by the United States - or demand changes to eliminate competition concerns. Officials complained that Oracle had not tried to offer any solutions - possibly selling off MySQL, which Oracle says it doesn't want to do.

Oracle has criticized the EU for not understanding the database market or open-source dynamics well enough.

MySQL is popular among Web-based companies and regulators say it will increasingly pose a threat to Oracle's market-leading database software as it adds features and attracts more customers. Sun paid \$1

billion for it last year.

The EU objection ratchets up tension about the fate of the deal, which Sun badly needs to go through. It lost \$120 million in the quarter ended Sept. 27 and is rapidly shedding [market share](#) to rivals like IBM Corp. and Hewlett-Packard Co.

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