

installed worldwide has declined by almost 10,000 (Source: *MDI: The Market Data Industry* research report). According to sources close to the vendor, more recent figures suggest the vendor has lost yet another 10,000 screens over the past year or so.

Thomson Acquires Three Data, Software Vendors

Even as the industry waits on news of the disposition of Bridge (see story, this issue) and Shark, Thomson Financial Services Inc. and its affiliates have been making plenty of acquisitions of their own.

Specifically, TFS's database group has acquired Jersey City, N.J.-based Dalcomp Inc. Meanwhile, TFS's U.K. sibling Thomson Financial Services Ltd. has acquired the French data provider World Equities. And TFS's Thomson Investment Software unit has snapped up Complex Computing Co., a New York City-based financial software house.

A TFS spokesperson confirms Dalcomp's purchase, but declines to comment further. But other sources say that a Feb. 13 Thomson internal memo describes the vendor as having three product lines—Dalcomp Syndicate Services, Dalcomp Trading Services and Dalcomp Data Services—which cater to the municipal and corporate securities trading markets. At one time, TFS's Bond Buyer and Dalcomp were rival information vendors in the mortgage-backed securities marketplace (*Trading Systems Technology*, Sept. 28, 1987).

Complex Computing, mean-

while, represents Thomson Investment Software's first foray into the sell-side marketplace. The vendor specializes in analytics, including a TBA mortgage-backed securities trade management and optimization system, now known as Thomson TBA Trader; an electronic pool notification interface, which allows users to electronically send notifications; and a structured note calculator and risk management system, which allows users to model complex indexed securities and provides probability distributions and analytical statistics.

Jason Glazier, who created Complex Computing's products, will become the director of research and development for Thomson Investment Software's newly formed analytical software group. The group will target both buy-side firms and broker/dealers.

Finally, Paris-based World Equities is a provider of corporate financial data, which services about 200 clients—including international fund managers and research houses, according to Thomson. The vendor provides corporate fundamentals, earnings estimates and historical data on more than 7,000 companies worldwide.

Data Consumers

Merrill, Soc Gen, Many Others, Carry Bloomberg on LANs

A U.K.-based network system vendor called CCC Group Ltd. now claims to facilitate some 25 percent of Bloomberg's customers in their efforts to avoid using Bloomberg-supplied cabling to

support their Bloomberg terminals. The New York City-based traders of Merrill Lynch & Co. and Societe Generale are among the data consumers who currently rely on CCC Group's so-called CCC Freeview system to deliver Bloomberg's service to Bloomberg terminals via their own local area networks.

CCC Group's product line has risen to prominence among Bloomberg's customer-base as these users have grown increasingly frustrated with Bloomberg's still strict native-equipment rules. This is especially true as firms and banks—Merrill and Soc Gen among them—have lately spent millions to install new LAN-based digital data distribution infrastructures only to find that deploying Bloomberg requires installation of separate proprietary coaxial cabling. The burden of the separate Bloomberg cabling becomes especially onerous as market data managers confront moves, adds and changes among traders and sales staff. (Though Bloomberg normally supplies the cabling, the user is responsible for its installation.)

With CCC Freeview, end-users—not surprisingly—must still display Bloomberg's service on a Bloomberg-supplied terminal bearing Bloomberg's name. What's more, Bloomberg must approve the use of alternative cabling methods on a case-by-case basis.

According to a CCC Group official, the software vendor has been facilitating the delivery of Bloomberg's service over its Freeview system for about one year. While some firms and banks have in the past distributed Bloomberg (again with the