

As a minimum, the standard departmental workstation has the following basic configuration:

- Monochrome monitor with monochrome display adapter,
- Single 360 KB, 5.25 inch floppy disk drive,
- 640 KB RAM (Random Access Memory),
- 20 or 30 MB hard disk drive,
- Everex 60 MB tape backup subsystem,
- A minimum of one serial and one parallel port,
- Real-time clock/calendar, and
- The MS-DOS (version 3.1 or higher) operating system.

To this minimum configuration, which costs approximately \$7,000, one or more of the following may be added, depending on the user's needs:

- A monochrome graphics adapter (Hercules-compatible) that must support the full range of software,
- A Hayes-compatible 1200 baud modem, supporting the full range of communications software, and
- An enhanced colour monitor and graphics adapter (EGA).

Compatibles which accept standard boards, connectors, and ports are preferred for ease of support and maintenance. Compatibles of Canadian manufacture which meet performance, support, and cost criteria are favoured.

At Headquarters, the Department supports Epson or Brother dot-matrix printers, and Brother or Qume daisy-wheel printers. At missions the printer policy is liberal, the primary concern being reliable service, although the mission should select internationally known brands, wherever possible.

MIS has also been known to authorize the purchase of Apple Macintosh microcomputers. For certain applications requiring high-quality or high-speed output, laser printers may also be issued. As laser printers are a rapidly-evolving technology, users should consult with MIS before making any commitment to a particular brand.

Because of plans to introduce COSICS, the Department will no longer purchase, lease or support local area networks, with the exception of the WIN EXPORTS application.

5.4.3 Approved Micro Software

As there are well over 10,000 MS-DOS-compatible software packages on the market, it is impossible for any support organization to develop and maintain expertise across the board. Support is limited to an approved list of powerful and reliable software. In this regard, MIS has the advice of the departmental PC Users' Group.