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Computer show opens in Taiwan

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The world's second-largest annual computer show, Computex, opened Tuesday in Taiwan, with organizers expecting the highest number of buyers and visitors in the exhibition's 25-year history.

The show trails only CeBIT, held in the German city of Hannover, in the number of exhibitors - having overtaken the U.S. show Comdex in recent years - according to the Taiwan External Trade Development Council and the Taipei Computer Association, the exhibition's two organizers.

Technology watchers say the event is an indicator of industry trends, and of computer sector demand in the second half of the year.

Nearly 30,000 international buyers and more than 120,000 visitors from Taiwan and abroad are expected, the organizers said. There were at some 26,000 buyers and 118,052 visitors last year.

The organizers said there will be 1,288 exhibitors this year total, down slightly from 1,347 last year, while the number of booths will be a little higher at 2,853, compared with 2,828 in 2004.

The show, which runs from Tuesday to Saturday, features companies from 22 countries. Exhibitors include Intel Corp., Microsoft Corp., Toshiba Corp. and Infineon Technologies AG.

Some of Taiwan's top companies such as computer firm Acer Inc., contract electronics manufacturer Hon Hai Precision Industry Co. and Asustek Computer Inc. - the world's leading motherboard maker - will also be present.

Associated Press

Sci/Tech

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