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TORONTO -- Software developer Geac Computer Inc. agreed to be acquired by U.S. private-equity firm Golden Gate Capital for about $1 billion, or $11.10 a share.

The offer was unanimously approved by Geac's independent committee and board. The price represents a 27% premium over Geac's Friday 4 p.m. quote of $8.77 on the Nasdaq Stock Market. Yesterday in 4 p.m. composite trading, Geac shares were up 23%, or $1.98, to $10.75.

Geac, based in Markham, Ontario, generates the bulk of its revenue from software maintenance and services. In August it said it was exploring alternatives.

The deal, expected to close early next year, comes several months after Geac fended off a proxy challenge from Crescendo Partners, a New York hedge fund. Crescendo wanted to replace two Geac board members with its own nominees to ensure that Geac didn't overpay for an acquisition.

Although Crescendo withdrew its challenge when it became apparent it lacked shareholder support, the episode effectively put Geac in play. Late last month Geac appointed Crescendo President Eric Rosenfeld to its board.

Geac Chief Executive Charles Jones said the acquisition "takes Geac to a new level of valuation without the risk of executing a strategy that must involve acquisitions."

Golden Gate said it will break Geac into two units that will be absorbed into its other businesses. The San Francisco firm intends to expand by offering new products and acquiring other software vendors, said David Dominik, a Golden Gate managing director. Mr. Jones will not be staying with Geac after the deal's completion.

Separately, the private-equity firm Garnett & Helfrich Capital said it is taking a majority stake in Ingres Corp., a company formed from spinning out a database software unit from Computer Associates International Inc. Terms weren't disclosed, but Garnett & Helfrich, of Menlo Park, Calif., said the company will sell an open-source version of Ingres software to compete with Oracle Corp.

Don Clark and Shasha Dai contributed to this article.