

IT spending to rise 4% in '13, predicts Gartner

By **Jeffrey B. Berman**,
Senior Analyst, IT Infrastructure

Bangalore, March 29: Worldwide IT spending is projected to total \$3.8 trillion in 2013, a 4.1% increase from 2012 spending of \$3.6 trillion, according to the latest forecast by Gartner.

"Although the United States did avoid the fiscal cliff, the subsequent sequestration, compounded by the rise of Cyprus' debt burden, seems to have netted out any benefit, and the fragile business and consumer sentiment throughout much of the world continues," said Richard Gordon, the managing vice-president at Gartner. "However, the new shocks are expected to be short-lived and while they may cause some pauses in discretionary spending along the



way, strategic IT initiatives will continue."

Worldwide devices spending (which includes PCs, tablets, mobile phones and printers) is forecast to reach \$718 billion in 2013, up 7.9% from 2012. Despite flat spending on PCs and a mod-

est decline in spending on printers, a short-term boost to spending on premium mobile phones has driven an upward revision in the devices sector growth for 2013 from Gartner's previous forecast of 6.3%.

"The global steady growth

WORLDWIDE DEVICES SPENDING, INCLUDING PCs, TABLETS, MOBILES AND PRINTERS, IS FORECAST TO REACH \$718 BILLION IN 2013, UP 7.9% FROM 2012

rates are a calm ocean that hides turbulent currents beneath," said John Lovelock, research vice-president at Gartner. "The Nexus of Forces — social, mobile, cloud and information — are reshaping spending patterns across all of the IT sectors that Gartner forecasts. Consumers and enterprises will continue to purchase a mix

of IT products and services; nothing is going away completely. However, the ratio of this mix is changing dramatically and there are clear winners and losers over the next three to five years, as we see more of a transition from PCs to mobile phones, from servers to storage, from licensed software to cloud, or the shift in voice and data connections from fixed to mobile."

The outlook for 2013 for data centre systems spending is forecast to grow 3.7% in 2013, down 0.7% from Gartner's previous forecast. This reduction is largely due to cuts to the near-term forecast for spending on external storage and the enterprise in the economically troubled EMEA region.