

**Canada**

**Research In Motion Acquires Ascendent to Add Telephone Software**

March 10 (Bloomberg) -- Research In Motion Ltd., maker of the BlackBerry e-mail phone, bought closely held Ascendent Systems to add software that lets users program their cell, home and business numbers so that a call to any device is directed to all of them.

Terms weren't disclosed. The company plans to add Ascendent's technology to its servers within three months, Co- Chief Executive Officer Jim Balsillie said in an interview yesterday.

The acquisition allows the Waterloo, Ontario-based company to expand the scope of the BlackBerry. Research In Motion last week agreed to pay \$612.5 million to settle a patent dispute with NTP Inc. that threatened to halt its U.S. service. Balsillie is securing growth by adding features including music players and helping to develop customized programs such as legal billing systems to attract business and consumer customers.

``This makes a BlackBerry behave like desktop phone in call transfer, conferencing and voice-mail integration," Balsillie said. ``RIM's strategy is to handle all aspects of mobility."

Research In Motion bought San Jose, California-based Ascendent from a group of investors including venture capital companies Enterprise Partners Venture Capital and ComVentures.

Shares of Research In Motion added 54 cents to \$79.95 yesterday in Nasdaq Stock Market composite trading. They have gained 21 percent this year.

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