

Will Google Take Over the NSA?

by Les Swift

April 17—Google is buying another drone company to add to its collection of robots and drones, and is working on a contact-lens version of Google Glass. At the same time, there are rumors of an even bigger acquisition. According to sources, their sources, and their sources' sources—all known to be as reliable as most sources generally are—Google is preparing an offer to buy the NSA.

“The NSA’s stock is way down due to the Snowden scandal,” a Wall Street banker/spook told someone in our chain of sources. “Buying it now would be a smart move, and the government might even throw in some other agencies for free.”

While Silicon Valley generally supports the move, some are leery of having Google take over the NSA.

“We want it for ourselves,” said a top-level source at Facebook, who must remain anonymous because he is actually an agent of a spook agency working as a liaison between his agency and Facebook. “Facebook is the world’s largest social network, and would be a perfect fit. We envision turning Facebook into the interface between netizens and the government, with all the business conducted over our network. Taking a page from Obamacare, we could require all U.S. netizens to join Facebook and keep their profiles updated. This would be an evolutionary step in governance, paving the way for true public/private cooperation.”

Not everyone is enthusiastic about the prospect, and privacy groups are raising questions.

“While such a deal clearly has potential, we must make sure that if the NSA is privatized, it is done in a way that corrects some of the abuses,” said a spokesman for the Society To Regulate the Panopticon. “If done properly, it could be a useful reform.

The Electronic Liberation Front is more skeptical. “We oppose letting Google or Facebook purchase the NSA, as it would give them too much market power,” a spokesman for the ELF told us. “We would prefer to see a consortium of stakeholders—the search engines, the social-media sites, the cell-phone outfits, the cable companies, the phone companies, the government contractors, and the advertisers—to give it a broader base and reduce the potential for abuse.”

What About the Constitution?

Wall Street supports the move.

“Not only would this give a boost to the stock market, but it would serve to reduce the costs of surveillance,” said a senior Wall Street figure who has served in numerous high-level capacities within the U.S. government and supranational agencies. “There is significant overlap between the private-sector surveillance and the government’s surveillance, and combining them could streamline the process and cut out the waste. It’s a win-win.”

“Imagine having access to the NSA network for High Frequency Trading!” exclaimed an executive at a top HFT hedge fund. “That’s like a license to print money.”

Still, some worry that the move might violate certain ancient texts.

“Get over it,” said a top Silicon Valley spokesman. “We don’t run the country according to the Dead Sea Scrolls, and no longer should we run it by the Constitution. Both were fine in their day, but their world is gone. It is time to move into the future.”

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