

Jeff Bezos buys the Washington Post

The founder of internet retail giant Amazon.com, Jeff Bezos is set to acquire the Washington Post, one of the most respected newspapers in the USA. The US\$250 million buyout deal will bring an end to the 80-year control of the newspaper by the Graham family. Four generations of the Graham family had worked to make the Washington Post a newspaper of national importance. According to the Washington Post, the initiative for the sale came from the Graham family, which employed an investment firm that approached six potential buyers. Finally, the deal was struck with Jeff Bezos. Sharing the family members' reaction to the deal, Donald Graham, the Chief Executive of the Washington Post Co. said, *"Every member of my family started out with the same emotion – shock – in even thinking about selling the Post. But when the idea of a transaction with Jeff Bezos came up, it altered my feelings."*

The Washington Post had seen its revenues decline for seven consecutive years. Explaining the need for this deal Donald further added, *"The Post could have survived under the company's ownership and been profitable for the foreseeable future. But we wanted to do more than survive."* As per the terms of the deal, Donald Graham's niece, Katharine Weymouth will continue to be the publisher and chief executive of the newspaper. With this sale, the Washington Post joined the league of other family controlled newspaper majors like the Wall Street Journal, the Boston Globe and Dow Jones that were all sold-off since the advent of internet.

Source: The Guardian, August 6, 2013