



NEW PROCUREMENT TOOL FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY-PREFERABLE COMPUTERS – DETAILS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

May 10, 2005

Many public and private organizations today are interested in purchasing environmentally preferable computer equipment. To make this task easier, a multi-stakeholder group –representing electronic manufacturers, public and private purchasers, environmental groups, academia and recyclers -- came together to develop the Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT).

The new environmental assessment tool is designed to help purchasers in the public and private sectors evaluate, compare and select desktop computers, laptops and monitors based on their environmental attributes. While the tool has not yet been finalized, information on its overall program structure and the draft environmental performance criteria is already available online at www.EPEAT.net. The website also provides guidance for purchasers interested in incorporating EPEAT into their future procurements.

The EPEAT program and criteria have been designed to be a leadership standard with the capability to evolve over time and continue to “raise the bar” for environmentally preferable equipment. EPEAT will initially cover desktop computers, laptops and monitors and will list these products according to three tiers of increasing environmental performance – Bronze, Silver and Gold.

The rating will be based on a set of mandatory and optional criteria organized into eight categories: environmentally sensitive materials (such as reduction in the use of mercury, cadmium, lead and brominated flame retardants), recycled content, energy conservation, design for end-of-life, life cycle extension, end-of-life management (product take back), corporate performance and packaging. To qualify for the EPEAT basic or bronze level, a product will have to conform to all the mandatory criteria. Manufacturers will be able to choose which optional criteria they would like to meet to achieve higher levels of EPEAT qualification.

EPEAT will provide purchasers with an easy way to specify and purchase environmentally preferable computer equipment just by including the desired EPEAT level in their bids. The EPEAT three-tier structure will give them the flexibility to select equipment that meets the basic requirements or give preference to models with additional environmental attributes. The tool will eliminate the need to identify which environmental performance criteria to include in specs and to collect and evaluate bidder environmental documentation.

The electronics industry welcomes EPEAT as a tool that will help provide clear and consistent performance criteria for the design of new products, and an opportunity for companies to secure market recognition for efforts to reduce the environmental impact of their products.

EPEAT listed products are expected to be available in early 2006. For more information on the structure of EPEAT, a draft list of environmental performance criteria, FAQs, sample bid specs and other information please visit <http://www.EPEAT.net>.