



For Immediate Release:
April 16, 2009

Contact: Sarah O'Brien, EPEAT 802/233 1478
Sarah.obrien@greenelectronicscouncil.org
Juan Lopez, OFEE 202/(202) 343-9125
Lopez.juan@ofee.gov

Federal Agencies' EPEAT® Purchasing Takes Off

Agencies Use Their Purchasing Power to Advance Environmental Improvement in Electronics

Washington DC: With Earth Day approaching, Federal government purchasers have reported major steps towards "greening" their IT purchases. Their 2008 progress reports submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and Office of the Federal Environmental Executive (OFEE) reflected a significant commitment across the government to the EPEAT® system for green IT purchasing. This is consistent with a new Federal Acquisition Regulation' (FAR) clause that requires agencies to prioritize purchase of EPEAT-registered IT products.

"Thirteen of the 22 Federal agencies reported meeting the goal of 95% or higher EPEAT purchasing in their 2008 IT acquisitions, with many others moving toward that rate of compliance. This is particularly notable because the EPEAT requirements are new and being implemented along with security and other IT requirements," said Dana Arnold, Acting Federal Environmental Executive, "This striking level of compliance reflects great work on the part of Agency IT purchasing staff, as well as the ease of use of the EPEAT system. "

The 13 agencies who hit the 95% or higher mark purchased more than 500,000 EPEAT-registered desktops, laptops and monitors in 2008. See attachment for specific EPEAT purchasing examples.

"We are thrilled to see this energetic and comprehensive embrace of EPEAT by Federal purchasers," said Jeff Omelchuck, EPEAT's Executive Director. "We look forward to supporting federal users even more in future as an expanding set of product categories qualifies for EPEAT registration."

EPEAT (www.epeat.net) is today's most expansive and influential green IT product rating system, with a registry of more than 1,000 products and more than 30 participating manufacturers, from global giants to small integrators (www.epeat.net/companies.aspx). The EPEAT system rates electronic products according to three tiers of environmental performance: Bronze, Silver and Gold, based on a total of 51 environmental criteria (www.epeat.net/Criteria.aspx). Key benchmarks include elimination of toxic materials, design for recycling, extended product life, energy efficiency, and availability of takeback and recycling services.

The breadth of products registered in EPEAT makes it easy for purchasers to meet their computing needs with products that cost no more than conventional ones yet greatly reduce environmental impacts. In addition to the U.S. Federal government commitment, EPEAT is integrated into hundreds of enterprise, government, education, and health care IT contracts worldwide, with more than 109 million products sold in 2007.

The EPEAT system and environmental performance standard were developed in a three year stakeholder consensus process supported by the Environmental Protection Agency, and are embodied in the International Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) 1680 Standard for Environmental Assessment of Personal Computer Products. An IEEE 1680 standards development process is currently underway for imaging devices, with a workgroup forming for televisions and standards development for servers and mobile devices planned in future. Global demand for EPEAT is increasing, and system expansion to additional geographies is also in the works.

Federal Agencies Purchasing 95% or Higher EPEAT-Registered IT

Department of Veterans Affairs: 100% of the 290,623 Dell desktops and monitors leased by VA between September 2007 and December 2008 were EPEAT gold or silver products (i.e., 135,598 EPEAT gold desktops; 4,345 EPEAT silver desktops; and 150,680 EPEAT silver monitors).

Department of the Treasury: Of the 64,686 computer desktops, laptops/notebooks, and monitors Treasury purchased in FY 2008, a total of 64,491 (or 99.7%) were EPEAT-registered products. The EPEAT-compliant products were 68.5% Silver and 31.2% Gold.

Department of Energy: DOE purchased more than 50,000 EPEAT registered computers and monitors in FY08, constituting more than 96% of DOE's approximately 52,000 total purchases. All but 4% were Gold (49%), Silver (45%) or Bronze (2%).

Social Security Administration: 100% of the 24,673 desktop computers purchased by SSA were EPEAT-registered Gold. All of the 26,948 LCD monitors purchased were EPEAT-registered, 15,600 were EPEAT-registered Silver, and 11,348 were EPEAT-registered Gold.

Department of the Interior: DOI purchased through their Agency-wide mandatory-use IT Hardware Contract a total of 34,737 desktops, 17,548 laptops, and 4,237 monitors, i.e., a total of 56,522 EPEAT compliant units in FY 2006-2008.

Department of State - All of State's Global Information Technology Modernization Program (GITM) purchases in FY 2008 were EPEAT Silver or Gold products: 7,515 EPEAT-registered Gold desktops and 5,370 EPEAT-registered Silver monitors.

Department of Commerce: DOC purchased 6,618 computers, monitors, and laptops in FY 2008; 6,423 (or 97%) of these were EPEAT-registered.

NASA: In 2008, the Outsourcing Desktop Initiative for NASA (ODIN) program purchased 12,256 EPEAT-registered computers and monitors for NASA personnel.

Tennessee Valley Authority: TVA purchased 2,496 desktop computers, 3,500 monitors, and 1,017 laptops that were EPEAT-registered, for a total of 99.3% EPEAT compliant purchases in FY 2008.

Office of Personnel Management: OPM added EPEAT requirements into the IT Procurement Authorization tracking system (ITPA). All of the CIO-approved purchases were either Gold or Silver rated. A total of 1,541 desktop/laptops and 1,619 LCDs were procured in FY 2008.

General Services Administration: GSA purchased more than 600 EPEAT certified computers in FY08. All computers were 100% compliant with EPEAT purchases.

US Environmental Protection Agency: In 2008, EPA used an IT Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA) that specifies EPEAT-registered equipment for electronic purchases. EPA estimated that 99% of eligible electronics purchases were EPEAT-registered. In FY09, EPA is standardizing its user-provisioned computer equipment for headquarters employees and providing more than 12,000 EPEAT-registered computers to its staff.

Department of Labor: DOL instituted a new requirement that any non-EPEAT purchase be registered as an exception to purchasing policy. No exemptions were reported in FY 2008, indicating 100% compliance with the EPEAT purchasing requirement.

About EPEAT® The EPEAT (Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool) program evaluates computer desktops, laptops, and monitors based on 51 environmental criteria developed through an extensive stakeholder consensus process supported by US EPA. The EPEAT system is managed by the Green Electronics Council, a nonprofit organization headquartered in Portland, OR.

Compared to traditional computer equipment, all EPEAT-registered computers have reduced levels of cadmium, lead, and mercury to better protect human health and the environment. They are more energy efficient, which reduces emissions of climate changing greenhouse gases. They are also easier to upgrade and recycle. In fact, manufacturers must offer environmentally responsible recycling options for all EPEAT-registered products. For more on EPEAT criteria and qualified products, see www.epeat.net