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## **San Francisco Goes for EPEAT® Gold** **First City to Require Highest Green IT Rating as Purchase Baseline**

**San Francisco:** In keeping with its reputation for environmental responsibility, the City of San Francisco has upgraded its environmental requirement for purchase of PCs, laptops and workstations to the highest rating in the EPEAT® green computer registry – EPEAT Gold.

“By electing to purchase EPEAT Gold products wherever possible, San Francisco is in the forefront of environmental purchasing,” said Jeff Omelchuck, Executive Director of the Green Electronics Council which manages the EPEAT system, “This commitment will result in energy and cost savings, as well as significantly reducing the overall environmental impact of the City’s IT operations.”

Developed through a stakeholder consensus process supported by US EPA, the EPEAT system evaluates electronic products according to three tiers of environmental performance: Bronze, Silver and Gold, based on a total of 51 environmental criteria. Key benchmarks include elimination of toxic materials, design for recycling, extended product longevity, increased energy efficiency, and availability of takeback and recycling services. Products must meet the 23 required criteria and at least 75% of the optional criteria to qualify for Gold status.

San Francisco had implemented an EPEAT “Silver or higher” requirement for all computer purchasing in February 2008, but wanted to raise the bar for this year’s purchasing.

From its beginning with 3 participating manufacturers and a roster of 60 registered products, the EPEAT system has grown to include over thirty manufacturer participants registering more than 1000 environmentally preferable desktops, laptops, workstation and monitors in the system. Widely known and broadly used, EPEAT helps manufacturers gain market recognition for their environmental efforts

EPEAT is a purchasing requirement for all US Federal Agencies, and is integrated into hundreds of government, education, health care and enterprise IT contracts worldwide. In addition EPEAT is becoming an integral part of the IT channel, with leading distributors and resellers joining EPEAT Partner programs to support their customers’ green purchasing initiatives.

Key purchaser profiles, searchable product database, participating manufacturer list, EPEAT criteria and environmental benefits may be found at [www.epeat.net](http://www.epeat.net) .

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**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. EPEAT is based on the ANSI approved IEEE 1680 standard. All EPEAT registered products must meet 23 mandatory environmental criteria. An additional 28 optional criteria are used to determine whether products earn EPEAT Bronze, Silver, or Gold recognition. 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](http://www.epeat.net)