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Joint press release with the Federal Association for Information Technology, Telecommunications and New Media (*Bundesverband Informationswirtschaft, Telekommunikation und neue Medien e.V.*) and the Federal Interior Ministry Procurement Office (*Beschaffungsamt*)

New guideline on environmentally friendly procurement of notebooks

‘ITK-Beschaffung.de’ procurement website now also featured in English and French

Public tenders and procurement of ‘green’ notebooks has just become simpler for both the private and public sectors. The high tech association BITKOM, the Federal Environment Agency (UBA), and the Federal Ministry of Interior Procurement Office (BeschA) have issued a new guideline with recommendations on how to procure environmentally friendly notebooks (German title: *Empfehlungen für die umweltfreundliche Beschaffung von Notebooks*). “The guideline provides reliable and easy-to-understand help for public offices’ procurement officers and also offers businesses advice on purchasing environmentally friendly notebooks”, said Martin Jetter of BITKOM’s Presiding Committee. Notebooks are becoming more and more popular and according to estimates by BITKOM, 7.2 million units will be sold in Germany this year, which is 26 percent more than in 2008. At present, 62 percent of all PCs sold are notebooks, and desktop PCs represent 38 percent, a proportion that was reversed only three years ago.

The guideline examines notebook procurement criteria in the areas of energy consumption, material characteristics, and acoustic noise emissions, and also features manufacturer declarations and user information. It also takes account of the Energy Star 5.0 energy efficiency standard valid from July 2009. “Procurement of energy-saving notebooks by public sector officials will make a real contribution to climate protection efforts. Furthermore, it will save energy and tax money,” said UBA’s Vice President Dr. Thomas Holzmann. Notebooks on the whole consume less power and materials compared to desktops. BITKOM has estimated that the public sector will spend about 18 billion euros on computers, software, and services related to IT and communications in 2009. The majority of that sum is accounted for by software (four billion euros) and hardware such as computers (2.3 billion euros). “The public sector has purchasing power that must be used even more to promote environmentally friendly products,” said Holzmann.

The publication was issued as part of the ITK-Beschaffung.de online platform. The project by BITKOM, UBA, BeschA, and the Federal Office for Information Management and Information Technology of the Bundeswehr (IT-AMT BW) aims to provide public purchasers at federal, state and community level with a reliable and intelligible tool for their information and communications technology procurement needs. These processes are often complex since a great many legal requirements and standards in environmental protection and public procurement law must be met. The website is now featured in German, English (www.ICT-procurement.org) and French and is being continuously expanded. An updated version of the earlier published Recommendations for environmentally friendly procurement of desktops Guideline will also incorporate the new Energy Star 5.0 standard. "Public purchasers will find the website on procurement of IT and communications to be a great relief," said Mr Klaus-Peter Tiedtke, Head of the Federal Ministry of Interior Procurement Office. "The website will promote competitiveness and transparency, which will draw a greater number of bids on our tenders and translates into cost-cutting. We can thus use taxpayer money more efficiently and also have legal certitude," said Tiedtke.

The guideline with recommendations on the environmentally friendly procurement of notebooks can be downloaded free of charge at <http://www.itk-beschaffung.de/index.php?id=4>.

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