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2008 Leadership in GREEN Procurement Award

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Summit magazine is the publication of choice for procurement professionals seeking information, ideas and solutions that specifically relate to the public sector environment. This year Summit magazine celebrates 10 years of providing articles and informed commentary to Canada's public procurement professionals at every level of the public sector across the entire country. Summit magazine is proud to collaborate with the Canadian Public Procurement Council in the Leadership Awards program.

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Look for more information on this project and the finalists in the Leadership supplement in the November-December issue of Summit magazine.



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2008 WINNER

LEADERSHIP IN GREEN PROCUREMENT AWARD

Public Works and Government Services Canada IT Hardware National Master Standing Offer

The Government of Canada influences the market by greening its information technology as this synopsis of the team submission to the Leadership in Green Procurement Award shows.

The purpose of this federal initiative was to incorporate all pertinent environmental stewardship standards into Public Works and Government Services Canada's (PWGSC) IT hardware National Master Standing Offers (NMSOs). This initiative has been harmonized with the Office of Greening Government Operations' (OGGO) policy on green procurement, which states:

"The Government of Canada is committed to implementing the policy on green procurement. This is to ensure that the government cost effectively procures, operates and disposes of its assets in a manner that protects the environment and supports sustainable development objectives. Given our purchasing volumes, it's clear that we can have a significant positive impact in stimulating markets for environmentally sound products, and demonstrate real leadership in greening government.

This policy is all encompassing and it applies across all four stages of the procurement process, from planning and acquisition through use and disposal. The policy is intended to make the government a global leader in integrating environmental considerations into all aspects of our procurement system."

The IT hardware NMSO is a Government of Canada (GoC) wide procurement vehicle that represents an annual spend of \$175 to \$200 million. The NMSO commodities include microcomputer-based desktops and monitors, notebooks, thin clients, and servers. The NMSO is the main procurement vehicle used by all client departments and features 19 NMSO suppliers, both multinational and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

As early as 1995, the NMSO has incorporated the most comprehensive green criteria available. Incorporating environmental stew-

ardship criteria involves extensive stakeholder consultation and an assertive introduction of industry standard initiatives that do not preclude Acquisition Branch's mandate for a fair and equitable competition and uses the latest iteration of those criteria as described through OGGO's reporting mechanism.

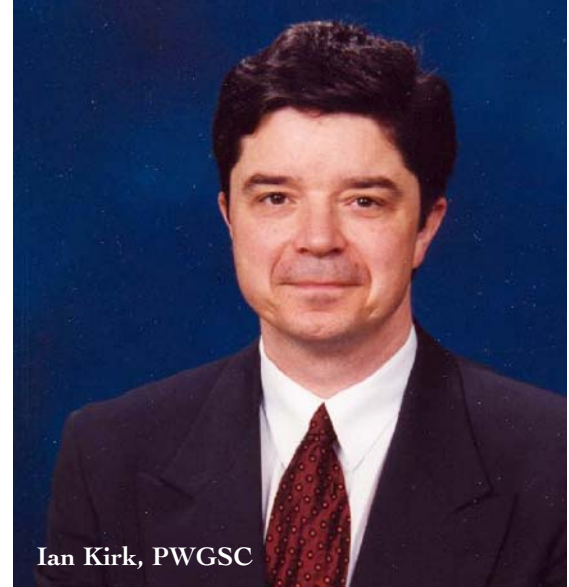
This year's NMSO positions the green PC category as the default offering on the desktop NMSO. The green PC will be a "small form factor" PC. All discrete components such as video and network controllers will be integrated onto one main circuit board, often referred to as the motherboard. This will offer a significant reduction in electronic components and case material (less at end-of-life disposal) and will offer optimal power efficiency.

The NMSO also introduces "thin client" devices – diminutive input/output terminals which, when connected to the appropriate network infrastructure, offer the same functionality as a desktop computer. The environmental benefits include: very low power consumption; longer life cycle; a drastic reduction of build material, which represents less material in the manufacturing process and subsequently at end-of-life disposal.

Electronics Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) Silver criteria will become mandatory in the GoC's next NMSO for desktop and notebook computers, and monitors. EPEAT gold levels will be optional and will be awarded extra feature points through the NMSO benchmark testing process (<http://canada.nstl.com/SipssWebSites/Report2008>). The EPEAT standard addresses a broad range of environmental considerations: levels of hazardous materials, recyclability, energy usage, design for end of life/disassembly, durability, and packaging amongst others, through the use of 23 required criteria and 50 percent of an additional 28 optional criteria.

Suppliers of desktops, notebooks, servers and monitors will be required to be part of an industry group established to address end-of-life electronics recycling and reuse in Canada such as The Electronics Product Stewardship Canada.

All server manufacturers must be a contributing member of The Green Grid (www.thegreengrid.org). This is a non-profit international industry association that "seeks to define



Ian Kirk, PWGSC

and propagate the best energy-efficiency practices in datacenter operation, construction, and design."

EnergyStar is also a component of the EPEAT Silver level of compliance. EnergyStar version 4.0 introduces enhanced power saving criteria over its previous iteration and includes the 80Plus initiative, which introduces a technical standard for energy efficient power supplies. The NMSO will require an earlier adoption than EPEAT allows for compliance.

The NMSO also incorporates several industry specific standards and best practices.

Assessment of "green" impact from an outside party

The new IT hardware NMSO was assessed in a recent report commissioned by the Office of Greening Government Operations and submitted by TerraChoice Environmental Marketing. The complete initial draft of the report is available upon request. Gartner Group will be embarking on a case study on this initiative which should be available this fall.

MDG Computers Canada Inc. has acknowledged the work of Ian Kirk and the PWGSC team stating that "by establishing these green requirements within the NMSO specifications and by awarding escalating discounts for higher levels of "green" achievements, Ian's team has created a mindset among suppliers that encourages efforts to reduce power consumption of shipped computers, utilize recycled packing materials (cardboard boxes and foam) and establish customer take-back and reuse programs so landfills stop filling up needlessly with material that can be re-used."

Summit magazine and our sponsors, Sun Microsystems of Canada Inc. and Toshiba of Canada Limited, extend congratulations to the PWGSC team, under the direction of Ian Kirk, for their winning initiative.

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