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GeSI & EICC Join with Tantalum Supply Chain Representatives On Responsible Sourcing Validation Program

Supply chain participants agree on validation plan for tantalum smelters

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 22, 2010 – The Global e-Sustainability Initiative (GeSI) and Electronic Industry Citizenship Coalition (EICC) met recently with representatives of the tantalum supply chain to agree to a validation program to ensure socially responsible sourcing of tantalum. Participants from every stage in the supply chain, from mining to original equipment manufacturer, were present at the April 7th meeting in Boston, MA.

During the session, the participants reviewed progress on the smelter validation project; audits are scheduled to begin in the third quarter of 2010. Due to the high level of activity and interest in this program, the participants also agreed to develop a robust external communications plan regarding the progress on the smelter verification program.

The GeSI and EICC members also highlighted their ongoing support for ITRI's Tin Supply Chain Initiative (iTSCi), which aims to enable responsible sourcing of minerals from the Democratic Republic of Congo. GeSI and the EICC plan to continue stakeholder dialogue as iTSCi's Phase Two pilot is launched. Because of the success of tantalum supply chain work, GeSI and EICC members also agreed to engage the tin supply chain on smelter validation activities similar to those of the tantalum supply chain.

The next meeting of the tantalum supply chain working group is scheduled for the fourth quarter of 2010.

About GeSI (Global e-Sustainability Initiative)

The Global e-Sustainability Initiative (GeSI) is uniquely dedicated to information and communication technologies (ICT) sustainability through innovation. GeSI brings together leading ICT companies – including telecommunications service providers and manufacturers as well as industry associations – and non-governmental organisations committed to achieving sustainability objectives through innovative technology. In June 2008, GeSI became a legal independent entity, an international non-profit association (AISBL) with an office near the EU institutions in Brussels, Belgium. For more information, see www.gesi.org.

About EICC (Electronic Industry Citizenship Coalition)

The EICC was established in 2004 to improve social, economic, and environmental conditions in the global electronic supply chain through use of a standardized code of conduct. The EICC was incorporated in 2007 as an association to ensure greater awareness of the Code, and to expand its adoption across the industry. The EICC includes over 40 global electronics companies. For more information or to view the EICC Code of Conduct, see www.eicc.info.

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