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EICC & GeSI Join with Tantalum Supply Chain Representatives to Improve Responsible Sourcing

Supply chain meeting a critical step in understanding complexities of responsible mineral sourcing

WASHINGTON, D.C., September 28, 2009 – The Electronic Industry Citizenship Coalition (EICC) and Global e-Sustainability Initiative (GeSI) met earlier this month with representatives of the tantalum supply chain to address responsible tantalum sourcing.

The EICC and GeSI joint extractives workgroup hosted 52 participants on September 17 in Chandler, Arizona. It was the first time representatives from all levels of the supply chain met to gain additional visibility into tantalum sourcing.

Participants represented every stage in the supply chain from mining to original equipment manufacturer (OEM). During the session, participants described the movement of materials through the supply chain, the complications of tracking and tracing minerals from mine to finished good product and possible strategies for addressing the challenges.

Agreed upon next steps include further exploration of potential solutions to challenges surrounding responsible sourcing, review of other industry-sector responsible sourcing initiatives and appropriate stakeholder engagement. Sub-teams are working on individual next steps; the next meeting of all participants is in November.

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 40 global electronics companies. For more information or to view the EICC code of conduct, see www.eicc.info.

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.

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