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Joint press release with the German Association for Information Technology, Telecommunications and New Media (BITKOM) and the Acquisition Office of the Federal Ministry of the Interior

New Internet portal to provide public authorities guidance in purchasing computers

Public-private cooperation in IT and communications technology purchasing

Public authorities and offices must adhere to complicated regulations when purchasing modern technology. European and German law prohibit identification of brand names in public tenders. This becomes especially tricky when ordering IT and communications technology since brand-name products are often desired. There is now a solution provided by a new online portal <http://www.itk-beschaffung.de/>, which is a Berlin-based venture launched with the help of public funds and BITKOM. The portal provides purchasing officials with reliable, comprehensible, and up-to-date information about non-proprietary acquisition of information and communications technology. It is a source of information for more than just public administration; purchasers from the private sector can also make use of it. "This future-oriented project will make acquisition of IT and communications technology much easier", said Prof. August-Wilhelm Scheer, President of the high-tech association BITKOM. "Moreover, it provides purchasers with legal assurance."

The <http://www.itk-beschaffung.de/> project is a joint initiative launched by the Acquisition Office of the Federal Ministry of the Interior and the high-tech association BITKOM. Other equitable partners are the German Army's Federal Office for Information Management and Information Technology and the Federal Environment Agency (UBA). As a start, the site will aid in purchase of desktop PCs and is scheduled to be expanded to include notebooks, servers and multi-purpose office machines.

"Public sector purchasers will see this web site as a great help", said Roderich Egeler, Director of the Acquisition Office of the Federal Ministry of the Interior. "We are expecting a higher number of bids on our public tenders. The portal promotes competition and will thereby produce cost savings. Tax-payer money can be put to more efficient use."

The green properties of products are an increasingly important feature of IT and communications technology products in tenders. The portal thus considers such aspects as energy consumption, ease of recycling, or low operational noise emissions. "Acquisition of low-energy PCs in the public sector does a lot for climate protection and saves costs", said Federal Environment Agency President, Prof. Dr. Andreas Troge. "In addition, green PCs can lower noise annoyance and other health problems at the workplace."

More information can be found at www.ITK-Beschaffung.de

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