



# Implementation example for the CFIT Commitment

## “We reduce our dependency on virgin and scarce materials”



Buy better

### Case study

## Increasing suppliers' transparency in the supply chain

Swiss Government | Switzerland

*Based on 2021 procurement*

Impact categories:



Product categories:



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### This case illustrates elements of the following CFIT Commitment:

- We reduce our dependency on virgin and scarce materials by using more secondary/recycled and/or biobased materials.

The purpose of this series of cases is to illustrate what the implementation of commitments of the CFIT framework for circular and fair procurement of ICT can look like. Please note that these case descriptions focus on one element of a tender or process which generally includes many more sustainability requirements.

# Promoting the use of recycled plastic when purchasing computer monitors

## Introduction

In the role as the central procurement agency for the Swiss Federal Administration, the Federal Office of Buildings and Logistics (FOBL) was commissioned to issue a call for tenders for the procurement of computer monitors in 2021.

The intended outcome of this call was a framework contract for the supply of computer monitors to the Swiss Federal Government[1]. The duration of the contract is approximately 3.5 years (until June 2025) and it has an estimated budget of 150.9 million CHF (152 million euros) for the whole contract period.

To comply with various commitments of the Federal Government regarding sustainable procurement and environmental performance[2], the tender documents included strict sustainability criteria to ensure the purchase of goods that would meet high economic, environmental, and social requirements throughout their entire life cycle. These environmental and social criteria had to be met by all bidders.

This document highlights the promotion of recycled plastic in the manufacturing of monitors, one of the many sustainability requirements in this tender. The requirement was included in the tender to contribute to the conservation of valuable raw materials and to encourage the use of post-consumer resources by manufacturers.



## What was implemented?

To reward the use of a high content of recycled plastics in the manufacture of monitors, the following award criterion was introduced:

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Reduction of raw materials: plastics (1000 points)

The manufacturer confirms that it produces their equipment partly from recycled plastics. The only accepted value is the recycled plastics content according to certification TCO Certified, generation 8, for displays.

Points will be distributed as follows:

- 0% recycled plastics = 0 point
- between > 50% and ≤ 60 % = 50% of the maximum score
- between > 60 % and ≤ 75 % = 75% of the maximum score
- between > 75 % and ≤ 85 % = 100% of the maximum score

As means of proof: bidders can present the TCO certificate with the information of the percentage of recycled plastic content (see 11.3.4. Sustainability performance indicators [mandate 1.3.1] page 152, <https://tcocertified.com/files/certification/tco-certified-generation-8-for-displays.pdf>).

Percentage included in: [tcocertified.com/product-finder/](https://tcocertified.com/product-finder/), Line 4 "RECYCLED PLASTIC".

The tender was evaluated on the basis of the Best Price Quality Ratio (60% price vs 40% quality). Overall, 24 750 points (60% were awarded for price and 16 500 points (40%) for quality criteria). Out of these quality criteria, 16 000 points related to ecological and social criteria. This criterion, on recycled plastics, represented 6% (1000 pts) of the quality award criteria (and 2,4% of all evaluation criteria).

## How was it put in place?

- The evaluation team first consulted the government's internal regulation P025 defining the minimum environmental criteria for the procurement of ICT infrastructure. All tenders of Swiss Federal agencies must comply with P025 [3].
- In addition, internal and external market analyses and market consultations were carried out. The external analysis was carried out by an independent expert who confirmed the work of the specialist of the Federal Office of Information Technology (FOITT). These internal and external analyses also served to identify new developments and updates to eco-label criteria which might be relevant to the tender. This process took four months.
- The tender criteria were selected on the basis of the information gathered. Some were based on the internal regulations, while others were more advanced. The result was an extensive list which was discussed with the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) and its IT sustainability consultant. There was a wish to simplify the criteria and ensure their relevance and alignment with the government's priorities. This resulted in a demand for compliance with the TCO Certified standard for displays as a compulsory criterion for all monitors.
- The aim of this public tender was to reward those products (and manufacturers) that had more to offer from a sustainability point of view. The criterion on recycled content was added to give extra attention to the topic of material scarcity and circularity. It was feasible to introduce this criterion, since all displays had to be TCO certified and TCO certification includes the publication of the percentage of post consumer recycled plastics.
- The market analysis showed that TCO Certified monitors contained between 10 and 80% recycled content. To encourage the offer of products with high proportions of recycled content, it was decided to give incremental points to models depending on the recycled content, starting from a minimum of 50% recycled content and up to 85%.
- The tender documents clearly define both the specifications and the means of verification for each criterion (see previous page).

## Who was involved?

- The Federal Office of Information Technology, Systems and Telecommunication was responsible for defining the tender specifications, managing the contract, and conducting spot checks.
- The Federal Office of Buildings and Logistics was in charge of the tendering process and is responsible for the strategic monitoring of the contract.
- The Federal Office for the Environment – supported by an external IT sustainability consultant – helped selecting and defining the environmental criteria.
- Several manufacturers participated in the market consultations.

## What were the outcomes and lessons learned?

### Outcomes

- In the follow-up meetings, bidders responded positively to the call for tenders, stating that the documents were clear and the criteria easy to understand and respond to.
- Three out of the four bidders were awarded points for post-consumer recycled content and all in the highest bracket (more than 75%), in line with the market analysis. The fact that all bids had to offer TCO Certified equipment, and the percentage of recycled plastic is shown in the TCO product finder platform, allowed for quick validation of the bids. Relying on the TCO certification by both procurement officers and bidders reduced the verification burden, as the certification controls the declaration of recycled content and provides trustworthy information [4].
- The market analysis, consultation and tender results will contribute to the next review of the government's internal regulation which will be published in the course of 2023.

### Lessons

- Having the requirements followed by the means of proof in the tender makes the tendering process easier for both the procurer and the bidder as all parties know which information should be provided.
- Starting the process early generates time for the internal and external market analysis and consultations, which is key when introducing new sustainability criteria in any tendering process. It helps to reduce challenges, prepare the market and adjust the tender to the market reality.
- When introducing new criteria, it is recommended to start with a market analysis. Initially, new criteria can be tested as award criteria. When this proves not to be too restrictive for the market, in a next tender they can be incorporated as mandatory requirements. In this case, the Federal Administration will examine the possibility of prescribing a mandatory minimum proportion of recycled material in future tenders, whereby higher requirements could also be awarded. In addition, the feasibility of such criteria will also be analysed also for other product groups such as printers, computer bags or notebooks.

### References:

[1] See published notice in the EU Tenders Electronic Daily platform ([145373-2022](#))

[2] Such as the Sustainable Development Strategy 2030 ([DE](#), [FR](#), [IT](#)) and the Procurement strategy of the federal administration 2021-2030 ([DE](#), [FR](#), [IT](#)).

[3] [Po25 - Ressourcen- und Umweltstandard für die Beschaffung der IKT-Infrastruktur](#)

[4] TCO [Product finder](#)

### Disclaimer:

*This case has been described to provide inspiration. If, after careful reflection, this example offers added value to your procurement practises, adapt it to fit your organisation and make sure it is compliant with the applicable rules and regulations for procurement.*