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Subject: Minutes of the European Community Energy Star Technical Working Group Meeting held on 30 November 2007, at JRC, Ispra.

The meeting presented and discussed the main issues related to the process for the revision of the specifications for computers, servers, imaging equipment, and monitors. The base for discussion was documents prepared by US EPA for the launch of the process and for the data request. The base for discussion was a presentation made by Jan Viegand (attached), covering all the products discussed. In addition for computers a substantial part of the discussion was related to the new ECMA and the BAPCO software.

1.1. Computers

Mr. Zenou presented the draft ECMA standard (attached). ECMA is developing a test methodology to measure the energy efficient performance of desktop and notebook computers. BAPCO is supporting this work by developing a benchmark. The target is to have both the ECMA standard and the benchmark completed by June 2008, in time for the implementation of Energy Star Tier II in July 2009. The methodology is a general test standard and so can be used for purposes other than Energy Star compliance testing.

Energy Efficiency Performance Assessment – EEPA

The main comments by the MS experts were focused on the usage profiles and the duty cycles. The experts would like to know the profiles and the duty cycles. The comparison was made with the imaging equipment where the full test pattern is provided in the test procedure and it is easy to see which work profile the machines have to undergo.

A concern was also that the EEPA tool might result in a too high activity level compared to typical usages in order to measure the performance of the computer.

The MS experts therefore recommended that ECMA provides more detailed information on the usage profiles and duty cycles and that ECMA ensures that they reflect typical usages.

The experts also pointed out the uncertainty in how to qualify computers with reference to the two workload profiles, office productivity and media rich.

Product Categories

The MS experts recommended to move the desktop-derived servers to the coming server specification, because logically they fall under that group. Furthermore, very few desktop-derived servers have been registered so far.

The experts would not mind to remove the game consoles from the computer specification, partly because they are not office equipment and the US/EC agreement only concerns office equipment, partly because basically there are three important players (Microsoft, Sony and Nintendo) and a better measure might be to have consultations directly with these players.

Workstations should be kept in the specification.

The MS experts were positive regarding including thin clients in the specification.

Component Requirement

The MS experts were in general in favour of not specifying component requirements, however, requirements to power supplies should still be kept because these will support the market transformation towards more efficient power supplies, which benefit also non-qualifying computers and other products.

Regarding docking stations and port replicators, the experts recommended to measure and report the consumption in order to be able to inform the customers about the consumption implications. If the consumption should be included in the requirement, the specification will be more complicated. It is common in several member states to use docking stations and port replicators for notebooks.

Power Management and Network Requirements

The MS experts saw it as most important that the power management actually works in order to be able to use it. It should be part of the EEPA tool to test the power management.

Testing and Reporting

Regarding test of integrated computers and notebooks with display, the MS experts would prefer that the computers were measured both with and without displays on. This will however increase the testing costs.

The MS experts are interested in providing public information on energy consumption and performance.

1.2. Servers

Product Coverage

The MS experts saw the main focus to be low end to mid-range servers, which are most typical. The first specification therefore does not need to include high-end servers. Desktop-derived servers should be included.

Criteria

The experts recommended to focus on power supply efficiency for Tier 1.

On mode power consumption requirements should be included in Tier 2, because it it would be too early for Tier 1 in order not to delay Tier 1 further.

1.3. Imaging Equipment

OM Products under TEC

It has previously been discussed to use a TEC approach to the current OM product types in order to achieve fair comparison of same kind of products that fall under either TEC or the OM approach.

The MS experts did however not see it as a high priority, because most of the TEC and OM product types have unique target groups. Only a few high end inkjet printers and MFDs could reasonably be compared to laser printers and MFDs in the lower speed range. Therefore, MS experts recommend to maintain the current division between OM and TEC products. This is under the condition that the list of functional adders will not increase further.

The development of the products will show if a later revision of the requirements will need to move some OM products to the TEC approach.

Duplexing Requirements

The MS experts recommended to revise the criterion according to the market data for the products.

Recovery and Default-delay Time

Also here, the MS experts recommended to revise the criterion according to the market data for the products.

The TEC Test Procedure

The MS experts recommended that comments provided to the TEC test procedure during the preparatory study for imaging equipment under the European Commission's ecodesign of energy-using products will be considered and, if necessary, the test procedure will be adjusted accordingly.

The study reports can be downloaded from www.ecoimaging.org.

1.4. Monitors

New Product Categories

The digital photo frames were seen by the MS experts as important to further assess and possibly to include in the revised specifications.

Regarding the professional electronic displays, it should be considered if they should be included under the TV specification.

Impact of More Features

The MS experts recommended that there would be no allowance for additional features, because the power management should ensure that features not in use during the test should be powered down.

Testing Methodology

The MS experts agreed that the monitors should be tested as shipped similarly to the revised test standard for TVs, IEC 62087. The MS experts did not see think that manufacturers would set the luminance level very low in order to achieve a lower consumption, because that would most likely result in many consumer complains. A minimum luminance level could be included, especially if a static test pattern will continue to be used.

The MS experts felt that the test pattern did not need to be moving pictures, because the most typical use of the monitors was seen as office productivity work for the near future.

Regarding the various possible connection interfaces, the monitor should at least be tested for the worst case, i.e. the connection that results in the highest consumption.

Performance Metric

The MS experts did support that the performance metric would use area as determining parameter instead of resolution. This would be more logical because the useful output of the monitor is mainly the light emitting area.

According to data analysed by Senter-Novem, NL, and Market Transformation Programme, UK, there is a better correlation between consumption and area.