

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Rules Say Obsolete TV's, Computers, Electronics can't be Dumped!

BOSTON, MA, January 11, 2005, Discarded electronics is becoming one of the greatest culprits in our ever-growing worldwide waste stream. It impacts everything from keyboards to pc's and chips, Game-boys to Walkmans. Burying them in landfills can cause toxic metals to leach into groundwater. Burning old plastic components can release dangerous gases and airborne contaminants. Recycling electronic waste is possible, but the collection, transportation, and processing are expensive and can cause additional environmental issues.

The EU WEEE Directive requires separate collection and recycling of Hg-containing components and plastics containing Br-flame retardant. Though not specified in the WEEE Directive, Pb and Cd are also targeted to be sorted out by environmental agencies. PVC (Cl) must be sorted from other plastics in recycling processes as it adversely affects the quality of other recycled products. Additionally, the HCl given off corrodes recycling equipment and is a known health hazard.

Innov-X Responds to Electronics Waste Pollution

Don Sackett, Innov-X Systems President, offers a straightforward answer for electronic waste monitoring with worldwide applicability. "Simple, proven tools are available for manufacturers and governments to quickly sort these materials." "The Innov-X Portable Tube-based XRF Analyzer provides a fast, confident non-destructive screening tool for electronic parts, components and assembled products. It's a point-and-shoot monitor of toxic metal levels, for compliance verification, on-site QC, and for documented traceability. It identifies PVC, Bromine- or Antimony-based flame retardants and quantifies these elements in seconds. The analyzer also quantifies Lead, Cadmium and Chlorine (PVC) in seconds for verification of compliance with Environmental Directives."

The Innov-X analyzer was developed as a universal analysis tool, being x-ray tube-based, engineered around a PDA and may be optimized for a wide variety of materials applications including plastics, alloys, soil, paints, glass, etc.

In addition, the Innov-X Analyzer can also be used to help create new materials, like solder alloys to replace the lead-based solders commonly used in electronic products and P-based flame retardants to replace Br-based ones.

Worldwide Regulations Growing

Manufacturers are facing new Environmental Directives, in addition to other potential liability costs. The scheduled phase-out of lead and other toxic materials in electronic products is targeting commercial uses in high population areas like Japan and Europe. And just as those regions are doing, the U.S. now specifies maximum allowable concentrations. However, the U.S. is reporting levels but not completely banning these materials in electronics. The new list of Directives includes Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS), Waste Electrical/Electronic Equipment (WEEE), and End of Life Vehicles Directive (ELV). Assuredly, more will come later.

The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive requires separate collection and recycling in the EU of WEEE with Hg-containing components and plastics containing Br-flame retardant, as well as batteries and toner materials. Although other countries do not have the same specific directives, they are following suit. All electrical and electronic equipment manufactures and distributors who want to do business internationally will be required to comply with these EU Directives. "Consequently," adds Sackett, "all manufacturers and distributors have a vested interest in thoroughly screening WEEE for restricted toxic metals."

About Innov-X Systems

Innov-X Systems is an energetic new force in the portable x-ray fluorescence (XRF) industry. Their systems perform fast, accurate chemical analysis in seconds to identify, differentiate and quantify most materials from the periodic table of elements. Founded in 2001, they pioneered portable XRF instrumentation using a miniature x-ray tube rather than radioactive isotopes. They utilize pocket PC technology and software to enable the next generation of high performance XRF devices with GPS, multiple language display and wireless communication.

With R&D and manufacturing facilities in the U.S., Innov-X has offices in Europe (the Netherlands), Africa (Zambia), and Asia (Hong Kong). They maintain sales and service alliances in Canada, the Middle East, South America and worldwide.

More company information is available at <http://www.innov-xsys.com>.