



Business models



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Question: Does the business recover, refurbish and resell products that are returned?



Question: Have "cloud" models been considered, i.e. where part of the product function has been shifted to the Cloud?



Question: Has the supplier provided a "carbon footprint" for the product that helps identify "hotspots"? Has this been incorporated into an improvement roadmap for the future?



ICT service architecture



Note: Just-in-time provisioning is recommended, because peak capacity drives total network energy consumption. Multi-cast is an energy-efficient method for data transmission because the destination computers help with the distribution.



Question: Has energy efficiency been considered in the design and use of ICT networks, by eliminating excessive redundancy, using Just in time provisioning and Multi-cast distribution



Question: Do any data centres use follow best practice for minimising energy use and CO2, such as the Green Grid's "Data Center Maturity Model" and "network function virtualisation"?



Question: Does any new ICT equipment that is being provisioned support lower power modes for low network traffic, and has the service been designed to make use of these??



Product design, materials and manufacture



Note: A recycled plastic (rABS) is now available for casings with quality and price competitive with virgin ABS, provided the properties of rABS are considered within the industrial design from the outset.



Question: Has recycled ABS been used for plastic casings?



Question: Has the product been designed to facilitate subsequent reuse, disassembly & refurbishment , and recycling?



Question: Can the firmware be upgraded to help future-prove it?



Accessories, packaging and instructions



Note: The energy required to move a car a few miles is more than the energy required to send a 1kg product around the world in ships and lorries, because the energy-efficiency of freight transport is so much higher.



Question: Has the product and packaging been designed to fit through a letterbox, without "signed-for" presence being required?



Question: Have discardable items been eliminated (best), or made recyclable (second-best), or bio-degradable (third-best)? Have clear instructions been provided, for where to discard what?



Question: Can network-based installation be used to displace the need for CDs and instruction booklets?



Question: Has 100% recycled brown-box packaging and soy-inks been used where possible



Question: Have standardised cables and connectors been used, to enable compatibility with other products? If so, can any of the cables / accessories be sold separately



Note: Consumer returns rates for electronics products are often around 10%. The majority of these are usually 'No Fault Found'.



Question: Has the user experience across purchasing, opening and setting up been designed to maximise consistency and ensure a positive initial experience?



End-user energy consumption



Note: End-user energy consumption is often the single biggest environmental impact, arising from the CO2 emissions associated with electricity generation. Switch-mode power supplies are the most efficient type available.



Question: Has end-user power consumption been prioritised and minimised?



Question: Does the product inform and support user-behaviour to minimise power use (low-power modes, power profiles etc.)?



Note: Micro-USB is emerging as a standard for all electronics power supplies.



Question: Can the product be powered from any available micro-USB source? If so, can the PSU be made optional?