



Press Release

Embargo: None

Trade Associations explain Disproportionate Costs of WEEE to the Conservatives at the House of Commons

Leek, Staffordshire 25 June 2007.

ITACS (the Independent Trade Association of Computing Specialists), together with the MAC Technology Association and the Professional Computing Association, met with the Honourable Adam Afriyie, Conservative MP for Windsor, and David Brescia, (Business Relations – Conservative Campaign Headquarters) at the Commons on 18 June 2007. Adam is a member of the Parliamentary Science and Technology Select Committee, is assisting Party policy formation as Chairman of the Deregulation Task Force and is a member of the Economic Competitiveness Policy Group, co-chaired by John Redwood and Simon Wolfson. As the Party's recently appointed Sector Leader for Technology, Media & Telecoms, Adam is also part of a team of Conservative MPs with business backgrounds collecting the opinions of UK businesses and trade associations to help inform Party policy under the Conservative Business Relations initiative. Discussions revolved around both the importance of the continuing health of the independent I.T. sector to the country and ultimately the disproportionate financial burden that WEEE places on these micro-enterprises endangering their viability.

Hendy Armstrong, ITACS Secretary, says: "The meeting was very constructive. We were all impressed with Adam's extensive understanding of the I.T. industry and his immediate appreciation of the real problems that WEEE will present to our members businesses. He was happy to accept the detailed documentation backing ITACS claim of disproportionality for later perusal. I must also thank Robert Peckham, Executive Director of the MAC Technology Association, who organised the meeting. Robert's contribution, together with the support of Keith Warburton, Chief Executive of the Professional Computing Association, demonstrates that the ITACS WEEE campaign has strong backing throughout the channel".

Robert states: "I thought the meeting went extremely well. We certainly got the point across about WEEE. Adam appears to be a very experienced and approachable champion for the cause; if the Conservatives get in at the next General Election and he makes Minister, I feel we will have a major cabinet-based ally."

Keith Warburton says: "We underlined the fact that the IT marketplace is dominated by SME's. There are hardly any large scale indigenous computer manufacturers; most businesses in the country are SME's and they prefer their services and support to come from similar businesses. We need parliament and government departments to understand that the challenges faced by our industry are not the same across all sizes of players, and to put in place mechanisms that ensure our needs are properly reflected when drafting legislation such as WEEE. I was delighted to find that Adam Afriyie seems to be very well aware of

this situation, and interested in doing something about it. I'm sure Adam was impressed by the fact that this marketplace can show a united front, recognising that we were speaking not just for ourselves but on behalf of The Reseller Committee and thus representing bodies such as NASCR, NBS, Integra and Brigantia".

Since the meeting, Adam is reported by the press to have said "The WEEE Directive is likely to impose even further burdens on smaller I.T. firms. In an economic climate where small businesses have seen their regulatory burden and tax rate increase, I am concerned that WEEE may push smaller firms out of business".

Hendy Armstrong further states: "The ITACS WEEE campaign has been running strongly since its launch on 26 March 2007. It is not going to go away. Thousands of independent I.T. sector businesses will be adversely and unequally affected by the way the UK has specifically implemented the European WEEE Directive. The pressure continues to mount on the Government to re-examine our case. DTI explanations published that our concerns are all a misunderstanding is rather unpalatable and seriously questions our intelligence. Give us substance to the claims of misunderstanding. Let's fully analyse out the impacts and act where required before hundreds, probably thousands of small businesses are driven to closure. We urgently need the Government to understand that which seemed very clear to Adam".

Further details of the ITACS WEEE campaign including WEEE Impacts Analysis are available within the resources page at www.itacs.org.uk

End

Further information:

ITACS.

Founded in August 2006 from popular demand to look after the specific interests of the small independent retailer/service provider not adequately represented by existing organisations, the Independent Trade Association of Computing Specialists is a not for profit trade body drawing its Committee and expertise wholly from within its membership. Formation unfortunately post dated the consultation phase of WEEE implementation and the self-evident lack of proper representation at this crucial stage fully justifies its current existence. Further information can be obtained at www.itacs.org.uk or telephone 01538 373978.

Main contact: Hendy Armstrong Secretary and Committee Member Tel: 01538 373978

E-mail: secretary@itacs.org.uk



With support from:

NASCR - The Trade Association for the Independent Computer Reseller -
Established 1988

The Association aims to improve the quality of service in the IT field, producing a Code of Ethics and Code of Practice in conjunction with Trading Standards

www.nascr.net

jennys@nascr.net