

## Leasing of copy machines for the schools in the City of Freiburg, Germany

Since the beginning of the school year 2006/2007, there have been new copying machines in Freiburg schools. These were not purchased, but rented for a period of 4 years within an “all-in contract” or “pool contract” This contract contains the leasing of new equipment that the contracting firm not only supplies, but also maintains during the whole period. The firm also provides the toner, whose containers are reusable and refilled each time.

This contract has given the Freiburg schools access to modern and reliable devices without having to deal with maintenance costs. Due to the high number of leased devices (so far 137) the acquisition costs remained at a reasonable level. Meanwhile the innovative approach has expanded to other departments within Freiburg’s administration, which profit from the convenient prices of the large-scale orders of the schools and enjoy energy-efficient copy machines.

The schools and offices buy the paper themselves (either recycled or using virgin fibres from sustainably managed forests) and make monthly payments to the contracting company depending on the number of copies made (the devices are equipped with counters).

The tender contained strong environmental criteria, not only covering electricity consumption, but also the issues of dust formation and ozone burden, as well as staff health aspects.

For the evaluation of offers a points system was established: 25 points (out of 100) were awarded for environmental criteria, 70 points for the price and 5 points the service. For energy consumption, the minimum criteria demanded were the requirements of Energy Star ([www.eu-energystar.org](http://www.eu-energystar.org)).

The following specifications were included in the tender published by the Department for School and Education of the City of Freiburg:

- Machines must have a short warm-up time
- Machines must enable the undisturbed processing of 80 g/sm recycling paper according to DIN 19309 and/or DIN V ENV 12281 or equivalent (standards for the compatibility of paper with machinery).
- Machines must be able to make double-sided copies of one or many original(s) – also on recycling paper - in large quantities, without affecting the copy quality.
- Machines must comply with EU Directive 2002/95/EC (RoHS Directive – Restriction of hazardous substances in electrical equipment).
- For each type of tendered machine, statements on electricity consumption in copy or standby mode must be provided. The energy consumption standards set by Energy Star must be met

- Machines must be labelled and/or verified according to CE and GS standards for health and safety.

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