



Eurosif

Press Release: Thursday June 12th, 2008

Eurosif (European Social Investment Forum) publishes today a report covering environmental, social and governance (ESG) challenges for companies in the Information & Communications Technology sector, concentrating on hardware. This sector note is being launched in Paris at the sixth edition of the Annual Forum for European Responsible Investment, organised by the French Social Investment Forum. Another event is planned for July 8th in London with West LB and the UK Social Investment Forum. Details will be posted on www.eurosif.org.

This is the ninth such note in Eurosif's series of publications aimed at raising awareness among a wide European audience on the nature and understanding of ESG issues, as well as related business opportunities potentially affecting long-term returns and productivity within these sectors.

The sector reports aim at helping policy makers, mainstream and specialist SRI investors, pension fund trustees, and companies understand risks that are not consistently integrated into traditional financial analysis, but which have the potential to influence companies' shareholder value and fund managers' investment decisions. They describe the companies' impacts on the environment and society, discuss the opportunities and risks such issues present and outline ways in which companies can address them.

Eurosif worked with West LB for the research portion of the ICT hardware report. The sector note was presided over by a steering committee of asset managers to debate the issues and develop ways to present the stakeholder and financial points of view. The steering committee included representatives from CM-CIC Asset Management, Fortis Investments, Henderson Global Investors, Insight Investment and MACIF Gestion.

Eurosif highlighted six key challenges for the ICT hardware sector: Energy Efficiency, E-Waste & Hazardous Substances, Supply Chain Issues, Electromagnetic Fields & Human Health, Nanotechnology and Access to ICT / the Digital Divide.

Robin Edme, President of Eurosif and the French SIF, says *"We are pleased to be releasing this report at the annual French SIF event in Paris as it helps contribute to an improved understanding of links existing between financial and non-financial performance. The ICT sector is evolving rapidly and Eurosif's report provides a succinct overview of what investors should think about in terms of risks and opportunities when looking at ICT companies."*

WestLB states, *"The current debate over 'Green ICT' was triggered by media hype around climate change in 2007. The industry had built up a clean, non-polluting image that appeared, to be free of environmental risks. Now, though, it is becoming clear that the sector's carbon footprint is significant. The ICT sector causes about 2% of global CO2 emissions, as much as air transport – a situation we consider to be unsustainable. We believe that 'Green ICT' is not just a pink elephant, an illusion that will vanish as quickly as it appeared on the industry's radar screen, but it is indeed about tapping new profit potentials and reducing financial risks for the ICT hardware industry."*

This report will be followed by two more from Eurosif this year covering Water to be released in October and Shipping to be released in December.

To view the reports please go to www.eurosif.org.

Notes to Editors

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EUROSIF, the European Social Investment Forum, is the pan-European network whose mission is to **address sustainability through the financial markets**. Eurosif works as a partnership of the national Social Investment Forums (SIFs) within the EU and with the support and involvement of Member Affiliates. Recognised as the premier European forum for sustainable investment, Eurosif's Member Affiliates are drawn from leading pension funds, asset managers, NGO's, trade unions, academic institutes and research providers, together representing assets totalling over €600bn. The key benefits that Eurosif affiliate members receive include EU interfacing, SRI information and European wide initiatives that integrate ESG issues into the financial services sector.

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