

**6/23/06**

**To:** *All Computer Stakeholders*

**Subject:** *Workstation Scalable Classifier Status and Next Steps for ENERGY STAR Computer Specification*

This message is being sent to you on behalf of EPA and DOE's ENERGY STAR® program.

Dear ENERGY STAR Computer Partners and Other Interested Stakeholders,

At the May 18, 2006, Computer Stakeholder Meeting, EPA agreed in concept to a scalable classifier for workstations, pending industry data to support the effectiveness of such an approach. In the weeks following the meeting, EPA and stakeholders collaborated on both reaching agreement on a definition for these products and developing a data collection sheet that would allow EPA to review the proposal for a scalable classifier. On June 12th, EPA distributed this data collection sheet with the proposed workstation definition and asked that industry share the agreed-upon data by June 20, 2006.

Recognizing that the timeline for completing the data collection sheet was rather short, EPA did not receive adequate data to complete even a partial analysis to assess if a scalable classifier based on percentage of maximum power is achievable. The data set is incomplete in the following key ways:

- Data is not representative of all architectures
- In most cases the data set is missing maximum power data (see next bullet), and in some cases Sleep, Off and Idle data. EPA needs all of this data to make a determination regarding a scalable classifier.
- EPA has data from only one manufacturer for all the maximum power measurements, including the SPEC runs and boot/post procedures. To ensure that EPA is able to compare the power draw during these various tests, EPA asks that all manufacturers submit the power, in watts, drawn when running SPEC fp rate (use the `--size=test` and `rate` switches to decrease run times) and SPEC apc, as well as when the machine is posting and booting. If manufacturers have available power drawn from internal stress testing, we invite them to share this as well. It will help us gauge the accuracy of the benchmark stress test scores.

Also, there is no need to run the full SPEC tests if running a small subset gets the best peak maximum you believe possible. In the case of SPEC fp rate, the addition of the command line options `--size=test` & `--rate` cuts the test time down to 8 minutes and reportedly (your mileage may vary) has the same effect as running the entire test.

Here is the command line in its entirety:

```
runspec --config=intel_nt_visual_studio --iterations=3 --noreportable --size=test --rate --users=3 fp
```

EPA remains interested in including a scalable classifier for workstations in the Tier 1 computer specification, but will be unable to do so without the appropriate data. Thus, EPA proposes the following next steps:

- 1) Monday, June 26, 11 am – 1 pm EST, meet via conference call to discuss data gaps, next steps and timing for filling these gaps. EPA must receive a commitment from stakeholders during this call to complete the next steps in order for EPA to continue to pursue this approach. Please use the following call-in information to join the call:
  - Domestic call-in number: 866-299-3188
  - International call-in number: 706-758-1822
  - Access code: 202-343-9120#
- 2) July 10, industry submits missing data. EPA will consult with industry as requested to clarify data needs and identify holes in the data set.
- 3) Thursday, July 13, 11 am – 1 pm EST EPA will host a second call regarding this scalable classifier (see call-in information listed above). If adequate data has been received, EPA will share its proposed approach for these products during this call. If adequate data has not been received, EPA will approach these products as described in Draft 2.
- 4) Monday, July 17, EPA will distribute an update document to all stakeholders informing them of the Agency's approach for these products.
- 5) Friday, August 4, Industry will share all data regarding workstations to inform the final levels.

EPA appreciates your participation in the revision of the computer specification and looks forward to a productive, collaborative effort over the next few weeks to finalize an approach for workstations.

Please direct all questions specific to this data collection effort and next steps to Katharine Kaplan Osdoba ([osdoba.katharine@epa.gov](mailto:osdoba.katharine@epa.gov)) or Thomas Bolioli at (617) 923-4132 or [tbolioli@terranovum.com](mailto:tbolioli@terranovum.com).