MPC Computers Comments on Draft 2 Version 5.0 ENERGY STAR Computer Specification

9/18/08

A: The workstation SPEC benchmark system is incredibly complicated, cumbersome, and otherwise difficult to install and use. The control software does not see my power meter connected to the control system by USB at all and the benchmark software is prone to lockups and timeouts. Also, the reports generated do not make any sense. This test suite needs to be integrated into one easy to install and use piece with intelligible results.

B: The Verification Testing process may be well suited to other markets and manufacturers, but will not work for MPC as we are direct sellers. The only location we could tell the independent test lab to buy our product from is our website. There are no retail locations. Also, there is no mention of it, but we are certain that these independent test labs will charge us for this testing which will take away from the already tiny margins in the PC industry. The only costs associated with the current (4.0) spec. is for the meters and such for internal testing. Why is this audit process necessary ? Were there abuses found with the self test and audit approach ?

In summary, we certainly understand and support the idea of driving the industry to increased energy efficiency, however participation in the Energy Star program used to be cost free, and relatively straight forward. In my humble opinion, simplifying your proposed new testing and requirements would go a long way to increase participation and therefore decrease nationwide energy use.