

# UK business struggling to demonstrate energy savings from green IT policy

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Green IT efforts not going far enough to reduce operational costs for business

Chessington, Surrey – 9th July 2008 – Commissioned by specialist value-added distributor Bell Micro, independent research has identified that for UK businesses which have implemented green IT policies the median for energy saved is just 10%. Major energy savings of over 50% are completely absent in larger organisations, raising a question over the current value of supposed ‘green’ activities.

There is a clear disconnect between ‘going green’ and demonstrable energy savings. Of the 21% of organisations with a green IT policy, only 12% have quantified any energy savings as a result of the green IT initiatives they have embarked on. 19% still say it is too early to tell and 65% admit they do not know what energy savings have been made. 4% admit none have been made yet.

That said, 62% of organisations interviewed for the research did recognise that savings could be made in the long run from green IT initiatives, and 89% of those without a current green IT policy thought that significant energy savings in the IT department alone could be made by introducing measures that will lead to greener IT behaviour.

“It is encouraging that businesses are recognising the need to embrace a greener approach to the day to day operational running of a company, but for those few that have engaged with green IT, these latest findings should be ringing alarm bells,” said Antony Young, Director of Services, Security and Networking Divisions at Bell Micro. “A green IT policy is not just an ethical decision; it also should address the bottom line, providing demonstrable savings against operational costs. What this data is showing is that currently operational savings in many cases would be at best described as negligible.”

Statistically, for organisations with a green IT policy, tangible savings have been recorded almost equally across SMEs (14%) and large organisations (12%), but among those who quantified their energy savings - ranging from 2% to 90% - the median figure was just 10%. The value of adopting a green approach therefore remains inconclusive for the majority of companies that have made efforts to embrace an environmentally aware IT policy.

“What these figures are telling us is that Green IT still has a long way to go if it is to deliver real operational savings and therefore be more widely accepted,” continues Young. “Businesses need to be more thorough in regards to the application of green IT policies, while resellers and vendors must be more vigorous in the provision of the assessment and monitoring services that can deliver truly green IT systems and solutions that pass longer term savings onto customers.”

Notes for editors

About the research

A total of 350 interviews were collected across a wide variety of industry sectors and in organisations of different sizes. All respondents confirmed prior to interview that they were involved at a senior level in the management of the IT systems for their organisation.

A sub-sample of 100 interviews was collected from large organisations with 250 or more employees. All respondents confirmed prior to interview that their organisation had 250 or more employees. Similarly, 250 interviews were collected from SMEs. All respondents confirmed prior to interview that their organisation had between 1 and 249 employees.

#### About Bell Micro

Bell Micro is a global, specialist distributor of a wide range of high-tech products, solutions and services, including storage systems, servers, security, software, computer components and peripherals, as well as integration, maintenance and professional services. An industry-recognized specialist in storage products, this Fortune 1000 company is one of the world's largest storage-centric value-added distributors with revenues of over €2bn in Europe and \$4bn world-wide.

Bell Micro is uniquely qualified with deep technical and application expertise to service a broad range of information technology needs. From design to deployment, its products and services are available at any level of integration, from components to sub-system assemblies and fully-integrated, tested and certified system solutions all designed to enhance its' partners. Bell Micro operates through three channels to market – industrial, commercial and enterprise – each of which offers a wide range of services and products from major IT vendors.

Bell Micro is the trading brand for Bell Microproducts Inc. More information can be found in the company's SEC filings or by visiting the Bell Micro web site at [www.bellmicro.eu](http://www.bellmicro.eu).

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