

SHORT SUMMARY

Organisation: Ministry of Finance, State Property Service (DRZ)

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IT hardware | **Country:** The Netherlands



Reuse IT equipment Central government



"More careful use results in more reusable equipment."

Ton Huisman, Director DRZ

Central government is a big user of IT equipment. How can we reintroduce redundant equipment into the chain in a smart and good way?

Project description

The State Property Service (DRZ), part of the Ministry of Finance, works in this project on the reuse of redundant Central government data-carrying IT equipment. This amounts to some 30,000 devices per year. From the viewpoint of data security, costs and environment, these devices are destroyed by shredder. The *scrap* is then sold on the market. DRZ investigated alternatives in this project.

Approach

The project comprised three parts:

1. Investigation into alternatives to destroying the equipment. This demonstrated that a large proportion of the equipment can be cleaned using special software and then reused. The investigation also calculated whether

the sales returns of the cleaned equipment would be sufficient to cover the costs of reuse and destruction.

2. A market tender for the deletion and making suitable for reuse of 8,123 data-carrying IT devices (a consignment that was available at that time). DRZ published an announcement for this in early October 2015. In total, six companies responded and one was given the contract.
3. The lessons learned from the first consignment were put into practice in a second consignment (15,223 devices).



FACTS & FIGURES

- > **Volume:** 23,346 items of IT equipment
- > **Suitable for cleaning:** 69%
- > **Of saleable value:** 25%
- > **Average market price for sold equipment:** € 37.85
- > Between 10% and 25% of IT equipment is sold via other channels. This is partly due to the costs of disposal (€ 17.50 per item).
- > CO2 savings between 2 and 10%
- > Material savings between 5 and 21%

Results

The number of saleable devices proved lower than estimated (25%). This meant that in the short term it was not possible to finance the total costs of processing the equipment (data wiping and reuse) from the sales returns. DRZ is now inves-

"It is data secure, delivers cost savings and is much better for the environment."

Klaas van der Sterren, Adviser Rijkswaterstaat

tigating how the percentage of saleable devices can be increased. For example by not automatically covering damage or by rewarding employees if they handle the equipment with care. It was also investigated whether the surrender contribution of € 17.50 that ministries now have to pay, can be reduced to € 10 to create more goodwill in surrendering the devices.

Security is an important aspect. Cleaning must take place using AIVD-approved software. For devices with an SSD drive

and mobile devices (smartphones and tablets) software has only recently become available (Blanco 5) that is approved by AIVD.

Lessons learned

- Awareness at the ministries plays an important role. The devices are now still viewed as valueless. If the equipment is handled with more care, this ultimately results in more reusable devices.
- The number of saleable devices was estimated too optimistically. Only 25% proved to be of saleable value. There are various reasons for this, such as too few devices surrendered (lack of confidence in reuse) and surrender of damaged, incomplete or obsolete devices.
- Ministries pay a surrender contribution of € 17.50 per device. Many ministries consider these costs too high, which results in an estimated 10% to 24% 'leakage' via other channels. It is advised to increase the returns of deletion and selling, so that this contribution can gradually be removed. Free removal of the devices would then also stimulate careful handling and higher valuation.

About REBus and the Green Deal on Circular Procurement

The Green Deal on Circular Procurement (GDCP) is an initiative of MVO Nederland (CSR Netherlands), NEVI, Central government, Duurzame Leverancier, PIANOo, Kirkman Company and Circle Economy. Various pilots originating from GDCP are partly financed by the European REBus project, implemented in the Netherlands by Rijkswaterstaat (Directorate-General for Public Works and Water Management). They are working together to support businesses and government organisations in their circular procurement ambitions.

Contact information

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Partners: Rijkswaterstaat (Adviser project REBus) | Recover-E/SiSo Computers BV

Relevant links & documents: [DRZ market consultation](#) (depersonalised in English) | [REBus Case Study](#) | [Article DRZ interview Ton Huisman](#)

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