



# Supply Chain Sustainability

## Initial Guidance to Cisco Suppliers and Partners: Sourcing of Minerals Originating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

As many of Cisco's suppliers and partners are already aware, the mining of "conflict minerals" by armed militias is fueling genocide and human rights abuses in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and adjoining countries. These minerals, whose derivatives include tin, tantalum, tungsten, and gold, are prevalent in the electronics industry. Cisco is committed to sourcing minerals in a manner that respects human rights, and we are confident that our supply chain partners are equally committed to doing their part to halt these atrocities.

Cisco supports the goals and objectives of the *Dodd–Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act*, which was signed into law in July 2010 and aims to prevent the use of conflict minerals that directly or indirectly finance or benefit armed groups in the DRC or adjoining country. The Act requires due diligence with respect to the sourcing of conflict minerals, and publicly traded companies will be expected to know and disclose the source of the materials in their products. The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) is developing the reporting requirements, which are scheduled to be complete by the end of 2011.

Cisco supports an industry-wide approach to addressing the conflict minerals issue, mainly through its participation in the Electronic Industry Citizenship Coalition (EICC). Cisco will continue to support and participate in the development of EICC's standardized approach, and we encourage our suppliers to follow the same approach. The EICC approach creates a responsible sourcing certification process that focuses on smelters around the world. ***Suppliers will be expected to ensure that all parts used to manufacture products supplied to Cisco originate from certified conflict-free smelters.***

### Next steps for suppliers

1. Ensure that the proper sustainability or corporate social responsibility contact within your company receives this communication and all future communications about conflict minerals.
2. Read the overview of this issue and the industry-standard EICC approach: <http://www.eicc.info/extractives.htm> (see "Conflict Minerals and the EICC-GeSI Approach" under "Conflict-Free Smelter Program" heading).
3. Start preparing your own suppliers for forthcoming due diligence requirements.
4. Look for further details from Cisco in the coming months.