UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

February 24, 2016,

Dear ENERGY STAR® Computer Server Partner, Certification Body, or Recognized Laboratory,

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency would like to share two updates to the Version 2.0 ENERGY STAR server specification -- a new version of the Standard Performance Evaluation Corporation (SPEC) Server Efficiency Rating Tool (SERT), as well as a proposed change to the requirement for Maximum Power Configuration testing which EPA intends to publish as a Version 2.1 specification revision once finalized.

EPA has recently been made aware of an update to SERT, to Version 1.1.1. For the purposes of ENERGY STAR certification, computer servers should be tested using SERT Version 1.1.1 moving forward. As has been the case with previous SERT updates during the life of Version 2.0, test results already submitted through the certification process using a previous EPA accepted version of SERT are not affected by this update. Additional information on the update can be found here.

The Version 1.1.1 is a minor update, with the following changes:
- Inclusion of support for Power8 Little Endian
- Minor GUI enhancements
- PTDaemon v1.8.0
- New version of user Guide in Mandarin Chinese

Additionally, based on discussion with stakeholders regarding the generation and submission of maximum power configuration SERT data, EPA is proposing to remove this configuration from required testing from the Version 2.0 specification. EPA and stakeholders have come to the mutual conclusion that the data generated from the maximum power configuration testing provides minimal value for data analysis in support of setting active efficiency requirements in Version 3.0. Further, these configurations typically result in the highest level of testing burden in product family testing. Removal of this test point will ideally free up partner resources to test additional model families.

EPA is also proposing to make a minor revision to the High-end Performance Configuration definition to ensure it captures the highest processor performance per socket offered in the product family. EPA recognizes that there are specific server configurations with additional memory beyond the High-end Performance Configuration that can deliver system level efficiencies for implementations such as virtualization. EPA will accept submissions which utilize increased quantities of memory, greater than tested, as valid configurations within the product family, if the additional memory does not impact server performance outside of the specific memory focused tests, and if the configuration can still meet all other certification requirements (e.g. power supply, power management, idle power if applicable, power and temperature reporting, etc.).

EPA has attached a redline of the affected section of the Version 2.0 specification for stakeholder review and comment. Stakeholders may submit comments to servers@energystar.gov by **March 11, 2016**. All comments will be posted to the ENERGY STAR Product Development web site unless the submitter requests that their comments remain confidential. Once EPA reviews feedback received, the resulting language will be finalized in an updated Version 2.1 specification.

Additional data supporting the proposed removal of the Maximum Power Configuration testing requirement can be found in ITI's submission here. For the purposes of certification, once this proposal is finalized, the Maximum Power Configuration fields may be left blank in QPX submissions.

For any questions about the SERT update or the proposed removal of the Maximum Power Configuration testing requirement, contact me at Hanson.Steven@epa.gov or 202-343-9836 or John Clinger at John.Clinger@icfi.com or 215-967-9407. For any other computer server related questions, please contact servers@energystar.gov. Thank you for your continued support of the ENERGY STAR program.

Sincerely,

Steven Hanson
Manager, ENERGY STAR for Data Center Products