

## Tantalum statement and information

### Sony Ericsson products and Tantalum

In most Sony Ericsson phone models there is virtually no tantalum content. Tantalum is used in a few phone models and then only as a material in tantalum capacitors. We have significantly reduced the usage of tantalum capacitors and replaced it with ceramic capacitors due to the scarcity of the metal. There are between zero to a couple of tantalum capacitors out of a total of 100-150 capacitors in a Sony Ericsson phone.

We have also specifically been in contact with our suppliers of tantalum capacitors and require them not to use illegally mined tantalum from Congo and the surrounding area. The reply has been that they do not use tantalum which origin in the area. They have long term contracts with suppliers and do not generally buy from the spot market where most of the illegally mined tantalum is expected to be sold. It is important to point out that Sony Ericsson buys capacitors from suppliers who manage their own tantalum purchases. It is impossible to control the sources of a raw material but we have clear requirements on our suppliers.

Sony Ericsson does not have a specific policy on Coltan mining. We do however have two policies which are relevant:

- Our Supplier Code of Conduct clearly states our commitment in the areas of basic human rights, labor standards, environmental management and anti-corruption in the work place. This Code is a requirement for all suppliers which must be applied in the production, supply and support of Sony Ericsson products worldwide, and in some cases may stipulate a higher standard than required by national law or regulation.
- Our Environmental Policy, among other issues, states our commitment to meet or exceed legal and other requirements to protect the environment.

### Some further information on Coltan and Tantalum

There is often misunderstanding and confusion with the use of these two terms. We get questions if there is Coltan in our products. Coltan is not a substance, component or part of a component. It is a short name for an ore. No product contains Coltan, but from Coltan the rare valuable metallic element Tantalum is derived. It is mined in several countries with Australia responsible for over 60% of world production. Less than 3% of the Tantalum comes from the area in and around Congo where much concern over mining processes has been raised.



The metal Tantalum is twice as dense as steel and highly resistant to heat and corrosion. It can store and release an electrical charge, a property that has made it a potent material for capacitors in electronic equipment. Other applications include surgical equipment, turbine blades for jet engines and lining chemical reactors. About 50% of world production is used for electronics and 50% for other purposes.

In year 2000, there was panic buying of Tantalum on the market due in part to high demand for capacitors. The prices skyrocketed, and in the two UN reports published in 2001 describe a Klondike gold-rush like atmosphere that was the result of this market situation. By the next year the prices fell to normal or even lower levels. With the decrease in prices, the basic economic driver and huge potential profit for illegal practices has diminished.