

Global recycler brings hope for Australia's e-waste mountains

International company TES-AMM has begun operations in Australia in a bid to help clean up the country's growing electronic waste stockpile.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, approximately 1.6 million computers are dumped in landfill each year, with another 1.8 million stored away in a garage or office backroom. Only approximately 500,000 computers are actually recycled out of approximately 7 million which reach their end of life.

In eliminating unwanted electronic waste in the most ethical and environmentally responsible way possible, TES-AMM guarantees their processes are different to any other e-waste facility in Australia for two reasons.

Firstly, TES-AMM is the only electronic waste recycler to possess a hazardous waste export permit issued by the Department of Environment and Heritage under the Hazardous Waste Act (Regulation of Exports and Imports).

Secondly, TES-AMM is the only electronic waste recycler that can offer accountability and traceability through the entire recycling process.

TES-AMM Australia's Managing Director Alvin Piadasa says the company, as a subsidiary of Singapore based TES-Envirocorp group, can offer a total best of breed technology solution that is completely traceable for electronic waste recycling.

"Our solution is used by most well known IT brand owners and original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) throughout the various regions around the world," Mr Piadasa said.

"TES-AMM utilises a unique low cost hydrometallurgical (chemical) process to recover precious metals from electronic scrap. The contained process allows complete capture of any harmful solid, liquid and gaseous emissions which differs greatly from the traditional smelting method of recovery which other recyclers offer," Mr Piadasa said.

"By engaging a reuse-recycle methodology, functioning electronic equipment which does not possess intellectual property or security considerations are usually tested and recovered for reuse down through to the component level. Such a strategy ensures maximum recycling rates and value for customers while also providing the end recovery solution which is safe and environmentally responsible."

TES-AMM is a professional ISO certified e-recycling organisation focused on achieving landfill minimisation and continued preservation of scarce natural resources not just in Australia but in the various regions they operate in.

"TES-AMM has grown out of a waste management and engineering platform which differs from other so called 'recyclers' who are essentially processors and traders of electronic scrap," Mr Piadasa said.

Along with e-recycling solutions, TES-AMM has also invested in research and development and has commercialised technologies for recycling lithium ion batteries, epoxy plastic and printer cartridge recycling.

The company has seen rapid growth in its short 2 year history in Australia and has established a national e-waste collection network and local alliances with various electronics waste processors.

"It is our goal to achieve success by improving the low recycling rates and raise standards here for e-waste recycling as well as to eliminate land-filling and illegal exports. As volumes continue to grow, TES-AMM is committed to investing in e-recycling facilities which will see Australia ultimately possess its own in-country recovery capability."