

Sydney, 3 June 2005 - Canon Australia is marking United Nations World Environment Day on 5 June 2005 by announcing a new environmental partnership with hi-tech recycling company Close the Loop. The partnership signals the launch of Canon's bold new resource management program in which Canon's old or used consumer and business imaging products are recycled.

In Phase One of the program, Canon has commenced sending Close the Loop a wide range of end of life consumer products and cartridges that are returned to Canon's Eco Centre by its resellers. Electronic waste or "e-waste" ranges from calculators, inkjet printers and laser multifunction printers to digital still cameras, digital video cameras and binoculars.

Phase Two, to begin shortly, will allow Canon to recycle larger business office equipment such as copiers. Phase Three will enable direct participation of Canon's dealer network and is scheduled for introduction in early 2006. Broader initiatives, such as allowing members of the public to participate in product recycling, are currently being researched and scoped.

Official recycling partner of the Cartridges for Planet Ark program, Melbourne-based Close the Loop uses state of the art processes and technology, in the shape of the 'Green Machine', to achieve 100 per cent recycling of cartridges and other imaging consumables. The Green Machine has now been adapted to recycle other kinds of electronic waste such as printers and scanners.

"Our program has developed world class technology for recovering the natural resources from end of life electronics products with zero waste to landfill. Canon Australia's commitment to this program and their strong support of environmental best practice, have been key elements in the success of this resource recovery technology," said Steve Morriss, CEO, Close the Loop Ltd.

"We applaud Canon Australia for committing the time, effort and resources required to take positive action in terms of managing resources and looking after our planet," added Mr. Morriss.

As Part of Canon's zero waste to landfill policy, the new program is one of a series of Green initiatives that Canon has rolled out over the past two years:

- ▣ In 2004 Canon introduced the world's first digital cameras and multifunction devices to comply with the European Union's Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) Directive - broadly considered the most stringent environmental directive in the world. Today, many of Canon products, ranging from colour multifunction printers to compact digital cameras and professional SLR cameras, are RoHS-compliant.

- ▣ Major Foundation Sponsorship of the Cartridges for Planet Ark scheme.

- ▣ Improved energy efficiency with every new product line.

- ▣ Canon Australia has commenced discussions with CSIRO to find ways of recycling a wide range of electronic batteries.

- ▣ Canon Inc. has introduced the "Factor 2" goal of reducing CO2 emissions by 25% related to sales from the year 2000 level.

- ▣ Sponsorship of the UN Environment Program (UNEP) International Photographic Competition on the Environment 2004-2005. Winning images can be seen at:

"Our recycling activities are just part of Canon's wider environmental goals and strategies. With other corporate initiatives - such as green procurement, reduction of CO2 emissions, and maximisation of resource efficiency - we also aim to show other companies that it is possible to combine business success with environmental responsibility," said Mr Shuichi Tsukahara, Managing Director of Canon Australia.

"At Canon, we believe that corporations have a clear responsibility to develop technologies that will halt the destruction of nature," said Mr. Tsukahara. "We are guided in this by Canon's corporate philosophy of kyosei, or living and working for the common good."