

# TRENDS AND OPPORTUNITIES – WEEE

DST Workshop, 20 February 2014

Keith Anderson  
EWASA

# CURRENT TRENDS IN E-WASTE

- ◆ E-waste is growing exponentially in Developing countries
- ◆ The demand is satisfied by both new and refurbished products
- ◆ Developing countries are still the primary recipient of illegally exported e-waste from the developed world
- ◆ A BAN (Basel Action Network) study revealed that 80% of e-waste sent to local recyclers was not processed locally but diverted offshore
- ◆ The e-waste challenge in developing countries, from both local consumption and illegal dumping, is exacerbated by limited legislation plus lack of available enforcement and regulatory resources

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR E-WASTE

- ◆ South African e-waste tonnage estimated at 2 million tons per year
- ◆ Urban mining of e-waste is gaining momentum
- ◆ Green job creation as manually sorting leads to higher quality fractions (conservative estimate of 1 job per 100 tons)
- ◆ Certified Collection points can become SMME's and offer a number of revenue generating opportunities
- ◆ Waste to Art in rural and urban communities with export potential
- ◆ Locally developed technology to treat hazardous e-waste streams
- ◆ Waste beneficiation and multiplier effect

# OBSTACLES TO MOVING FORWARD

- ◆ Education and awareness
- ◆ Industry cooperation and collaboration
- ◆ Training
- ◆ Financial support
- ◆ Technical assistance
- ◆ Lack of regulatory framework
- ◆ Current threshold limits in hazardous waste legislation
- ◆ Separation of hazardous versus non-hazardous processes
- ◆ We have local and international access to skills and technologies that can process 100% of this waste stream in an economically viable manner

Presented by Chris Whyte from USE-IT [chriswhyte@use-it.co.za](mailto:chriswhyte@use-it.co.za)  
USE-IT is the eThekweni Waste Materials Recovery Industry Development Cluster