



“Our church has committed itself to high ecological and social standards in procurement. We pay particular attention to ecological certificates and when purchasing technical equipment, we also strive to avoid companies that use exploitative child labor.”

Michael Schock
System Administrator
Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Württemberg



Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Württemberg replaces notebooks and monitors with Fujitsu products, complying with its strict corporate social responsibility policy.

At a glance

Country: Germany
Industry: Church
Founded: 1534 and 1920
Employees: 1,800 priests
Website: www.elk-wue.de/

Challenge

The Church's IT procurement is subject to particularly stringent measures to comply with social and economic standards.

Solution

Fujitsu was able to provide the necessary certificates for its notebooks and monitors to fulfil the corporate social responsibility guidelines. Ergonomics also played a key role in the decision.

Benefit

- Ecological criteria, such as good recyclability and the option to shut down devices
- International Labor Organization Convention ILO 182 on avoiding child labor is fulfilled
- Transparency of the working conditions in which products are manufactured

Customer

Baden-Württemberg has two Evangelical churches in Württemberg and Baden. The Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Württemberg encompasses around 1,300 parishes and is the sixth-largest of the 20 member churches of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD).

Products and services

- 1,400 FUJITSU Notebook LIFEBOOK E744
- 100 FUJITSU Desktop ESPRIMO E520
- 1,000 FUJITSU B22T-7 22-inch monitors
- 500 FUJITSU B24W-7 24-inch monitors
- 300 FUJITSU P27T-7 27-inch monitors



Challenge

Up to 2010, each priest within the Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Württemberg was responsible for procuring and maintaining their own IT hardware. Since then, the Church's IT has been consolidated via the DATAGROUP system house, while desktop computers and notebooks for all priests and other employees come from Fujitsu. Currently, almost 2,000 PCs, laptops and monitors in the parish offices need replacing.

The Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Württemberg is a very special customer for whom social responsibility and green IT are enormously important. "For us, environmental considerations such as a spare power supply unit, good recyclability and the option to shut down devices are key points of reference during procurement," emphasizes Michael Schock. As system administrator, he is responsible for parish office PCs at the Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Württemberg.

Deciding factors therefore include the TEC value, which indicates average power consumption, and the ENERGY STAR classification. Adherence to the RoHS recycling guideline and the Blue Angel environmental label is also relevant.

In addition, the church places great value on the working conditions in which IT products are manufactured. This includes compliance with Convention 182 of the International Labor Organization (ILO), which contains provisions on child labor and aims to prevent the worst practices. Michael Schock explains: "We insist on these standards to ensure we do not use products resulting from child exploitation."

Solution

Fujitsu made a good impression by taking into account the Church's central corporate social responsibility guidelines. "This is particularly important for us in cases of large-scale procurement, for example when re-equipping all parish offices," explains Schock.

The Church was prepared to pay a certain amount more to make this happen. "Naturally, we negotiate hard, but we are willing to pay more for a product if we are convinced that it fits in well with our ethos of corporate social responsibility," says Schock. However, it was also important to him for the priests to have devices with good ergonomics. "The white keyboards were another major reason for choosing these laptops; they are more comfortable for the eyes," states Schock.

He first arranged for the devices to be tested in one church district. "The experience was good and, overall, our priests were very satisfied with the computers installed," says Schock.

Benefit

The Evangelical-Lutheran Church believes it is important that its social responsibilities are reflected in the procurement of new products. Fujitsu was able to prove not only that its German branches comply with stringent production standards, but that its suppliers do too. And without significant additional costs: "Fujitsu PCs and laptops are high-quality and very competitive," says Schock. In addition, the collaboration between DATAGROUP and Fujitsu allowed the Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Württemberg to acquire everything from a single source. The storage of devices at the distributor extends the product life cycle and enables standardized products to be delivered to all parish offices.

Nearly 2,000 new computers that fulfil the highest ecological and social sustainability requirements are currently being installed in the parish offices of the Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Württemberg. The collaboration between DATAGROUP and Fujitsu guarantees verifiable compliance with these strict guidelines. "Fujitsu impressed us with its corporate social responsibility and was able to provide all requested certificates," concludes Schock.

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