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e-Green

Minimizing adverse environmental effects of used cartridges by recycling them

For each new toner cartridge that is manufactured, huge energy resources and many raw materials are required. Research data estimates that the manufacturing process of each new cartridge requires about 1.5 litres of oil. These cartridges are also said to be made from several non-degradable ingredients such as plastic, either styrene or a blend of styrene and acrylic. They contain rust [iron oxide], sand, silica, wax, and carbon black - which can cause lung and respiratory irritations and can be dangerous if inhaled. Once these cartridges reach the end of their working cycles, many users dispose them off to the landfills; yet it is a painfully conceived reality that each used cartridge that goes into landfills can take around 450 years to decompose. Hence the whole

process of manufacturing, using and disposing toner cartridges is not only expensive in terms of revenue and ecological resource, but the product itself is a real environmental hazard. In lieu of the above, e-Green, a Subsidiary of Al Hutaib Trading LLC, was established in 2004 in the UAE with a primary goal of remanufacturing premium quality, environment-friendly laser toner cartridges. According to Aliasger H. Badri, the company's general manager, Al Hutaib has a capacity of bringing back to use about 140,000 cartridges annually, and its current remanufacturing-capacity is approximately 60,000 toner cartridges a year. To meet its commitments and exceed customer expectations, Al Hutaib's premium quality remanufactured toner





cartridges go through intensive QC processes and controls, at its ISO certified production facility in the UAE.

"We understand the fact that each cartridge is unique in its composition and functionality. Hence, we use cartridge specific raw materials and remanufacturing processes to ensure that "e-green" cartridges perform as good as new, in all aspects. "If we quantify the environmental benefits, using "e-green" cartridges would significantly reduce the negative impact that every newly manufactured cartridge would have on our environment," Badri told Waste and Recycling Middle East magazine.

"The use of e-green remanufactured cartridges can reduce one's carbon footprint and help save the environment through energy conservation and waste reduction," he added. Asked about Al Hutaib's capacity to meet the ever growing demand for remanufactured cartridges in the UAE, Badri said: "We are



not sure of the quantity that we could expect in terms of forecasting demands throughout the country. However, being in this industry for more than seven years, we are confident that our integrated manufacturing processes and modules can be systematically replicated and further expanded to meet huge demand in time to come."

To further minimize the adverse impact of cartridges which cannot be further re-used, Al Hutaib sends the latter to the separation area of their facility where sorting is done according to its classification. After this, such cartridges are forwarded to dedicated recycling companies that appropriately disintegrate these parts, as per their classification.