Project: Reviewing and analyzing current Georgia Tech surplus policies and procedures for electronic equipment and recommending process improvements that incorporate the entire supply chain.

Project Sponsors:
Tom Pearson, Director, Procurement Services, Georgia Tech
Judy Whitfield, Associate Director, Procurement Services, Georgia Tech

Georgia Tech Procurement Services would like the project team to review Georgia Tech processes for managing the surplus electronic equipment and to propose a blueprint for improving on the status quo and communicating it to various stakeholders.

There will be several elements to the analysis:

1. Georgia Tech is a public university that is required to follow state legislation for disposing of surplus electronic equipment. Some of this legislation is evolving, for example, it’s been augmented recently with homeland security considerations. Procurement Services would like to make sure that their processes and the actual implementation of these processes are, at a minimum, in compliance with state law. They would also like the team to investigate and propose other options to go “beyond compliance” to minimize the environmental impact of surplus electronic equipment.

2. Electronic equipment is a fairly big budget item for Georgia Tech – the business volume with Dell only is $8M, for example. The team would develop a proposal to increase the value extracted from disposing of this equipment. Some companies (e.g. Dell) offer contracts whereby they take back surplus equipment, so the end-of-use considerations can be profitably incorporated into the procurement process.

3. Successful implementation of existing end-of-use policies vary widely from organization to organization. The team would also make a recommendation on how to structure the end-of-use process and how to communicate it to the various stakeholders at Georgia Tech to increase the likelihood of it functioning as designed.

Deliverable: A final report detailing an analysis of the above elements and providing recommendations.

Anticipated learnings: Understanding of state legislature relating to the topic. Understanding economics of managing end-of-use equipment in organizations. Benchmarking end-of-life practices in other organizations/industries. Understanding what it takes to roll out an initiative in a decentralized organization. Developing a communication strategy that involves an environmental component.