



October 2020

Research Tender

Title: Conflict Minerals in the Semiconductor supply chain.

Purpose: Increased understanding of the conflict mineral (CM) sourcing issue within the semiconductor supply chain.

Which companies in the upstream, foundry and downstream are most exposed to the issue of conflict minerals?

- 1) What steps have companies taken in the upstream, foundry and downstream to reduce their individual exposure to conflict minerals?
- 2) Has there been any evidence of 1) Mineral suppliers changing their sourcing routes? 2) Buyers cutting their contracts or 3) Authority intervention, either with fines or shipments halted.
- 3) What is the overall trend in the amount (in tons) of conflict mineral usage?

Requirements:

A report based on primary research. Not a rehash of secondary data from the following:

- Conflict-Free Smelter Program developed by the Electronic Industry Citizenship Coalition (EICC).
- Global e-Sustainability Initiative (GeSI).

Detours to be avoided:

- a) Passing the buck down the chain to:
 - 1) Miners. 2) Listed/unlisted smelting companies. 3) Metal traders.
- b) Reiterating the ESG section on conflict minerals of the companies listed below.
- c) Token membership of ineffectual industry bodies – often found in Taiwan.

Scope-Companies:

Upstream: Stewart Investors will provide a list of companies.

Foundry: Stewart Investors will provide a list of companies.

Downstream: Stewart Investors will provide a list of companies.

Tender specifics:

Please submit a proposal by email (maximum of two pages) to siresearchtenders@stewartinvestors.com on how you would conduct this research, over what timeframe and for what price. In principle we support making your research report more widely available, however we reserve the right to prohibit, or place restrictions, on such circulation if we believe that is appropriate. Closing date for application: October 12th 2020.