



ATI Buy Accessible Tool



Submitted by: [Jill Hirsekorn](#) on Jan 15, 2008 at 9:15 am Tagged with: [ATI](#), [Office of Federal Procurement](#), [SCRA](#) Source: [SCRA](#)

News Release

January 14, 2008

For more information, contact:

SCRA

Jill Hirsekorn

843.760.3329

jill.hirsekorn@scra.org

ATI Buy Accessible Tool

Recommended by the Office of Federal Procurement Policy
to Acquire Technology for People with Disabilities

Buy Accessible helps ensure accessibility of federal electronic and information technologies (E&IT)
procured by federal agencies

CHARLESTON, SC -- January 14, 2008 — SCRA announced today that a recent memo issued by the Executive Office of Federal Procurement Policy, Washington, D.C., recommends an ATI tool to all Federal Chief Acquisition Officers (CAOs) and Chief Information Officers (CIOs). The Office of Federal Procurement Policy is within the Executive Office of the President of the United States - Office of Management and Budget.

The memo reiterates that Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 794d) requires Federal agencies to purchase electronic and information technologies (E & IT) that meet specific accessibility standards. The memo suggests activities to CAOs and CIOs that will help Federal agencies fulfill their responsibilities to comply with section 508 requirements to acquire technology that is accessible for people with disabilities.

One of two resources identified to address these requirements is the Buy Accessible tool developed by the ATI-led team. This tool (www.buyaccessible.gov) guides requiring officials through the steps necessary to conduct acquisitions that comply with Section 508. CAOs and CIOs may incorporate the use of this tool into their procurement procedures to improve compliance with the law.

The memo states that Section 508 ensures Federal employees with disabilities have access to, and use of, the information and data they need to do their jobs, which reduces barriers to job success and mobility. The law also helps ensure that members of the public with disabilities have the ability to access government information and services. The memo also states that an accessible infrastructure creates an

environment for hiring persons with disabilities.

The General Services Administration, as part of their statutory requirement to provide technical support for Section 508, assesses the extent to which agencies properly include applicable Section 508 standards using a sampling process of solicitations.

###

About SCRA

SCRA is a global leader in applied research and commercialization services with offices in Anderson, Charleston, and Columbia, South Carolina. SCRA collaborates to advance technology. SCRA provides technology-based solutions with assured outcomes to industry and government, and with the help of research universities like Clemson University, the University of South Carolina and the Medical University of South Carolina. For more information, please visit www.scra.org.

About ATI

The Advanced Technology Institute builds international consortia to develop and implement innovative solutions for manufacturing, aerospace, automotive, maritime, metals, and healthcare industries. ATI-led collaborations attract world-class talent from premier companies, universities, and government agencies, to define technology roadmaps and research portfolios matched to business demands that provide the requisite resources to solve shared challenges. ATI's partners report improved market transition and return on investment with reduced risk. These practical business benefits enable the downstream economic and social benefits of the new technologies – such as safety, affordability, manufacturing competitiveness, environmental protection, and energy conservation. A private, non-profit research corporation with principle operations in Charleston, SC, ATI is an affiliate of SCRA. For more information, please visit www.aticorp.org.

See [3 other posts](#) submitted by [Jill Hirsekorn](#). Find articles, people, and videos related to: [ATI](#), [Office of Federal Procurement](#), [SCRA](#)