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ComputerSite Engineering and the Uptime Institute Update Tier Classification Standards

Santa Fe, NM, April 2, 2008 -- ComputerSite Engineering, Inc., a data center management and engineering consulting firm, jointly developed a new white paper with the Uptime Institute, *Operational Sustainability and Its Impact on Data Center Uptime Performance, Investment Value, Energy Efficiency, and Resiliency*.

Operational Sustainability is a significant concept applicable to both data center design and operations —as important, if not more important, to the ultimate performance of the investment than Tier level.

According to the authors, site resiliency is the combined result of Tier Topology and Operational Sustainability, and a new rating system based on the combination of the two will result in a new Classification, an overlay to the Tier Certification, to demonstrate the site's predicted resiliency.

“Operational Sustainability” is a new industry term, developed by consultants and faculty of both organizations, referring to design and operating factors that affect a site's resiliency through infrastructure performance, effectiveness, and long-term value. By evaluating site selection, building characteristics, fitness-for-use, investment effectiveness, and management & operations, a rating of A, B, or C is added to the Tier rating to indicate the longevity of the Certification. So a site with an A after its Tier rating will hold its Certification for five years.

In tandem with the release of the white paper describing this new evaluation methodology, the authors have also collaborated on an update of the defacto industry standard, *Tier Classifications Define Site Infrastructure Performance*, that outlines the requirements the Institute uses when rating and Certifying against Tier through licensee ComputerSite Engineering. According to the Institute's Certification Manager, Julian Kudritzki, “this Tier white paper revision addresses industry feedback about organization and specific topics, such as engine generators;” it also clarifies and builds on the original (unchanged) fundamental concepts.

The white paper also warns against claiming to Tier levels without Institute 3rd-party validation. “Our direct field experience informs the sections on the dangers of self- or partial-Certifications. These sections will be of interest to project management teams as it concerns *protecting* the substantial data center investment,” says Kudritzki. Data centers with official Certifications can be identified by the ComputerSite Engineering/Uptime Institute Tier foil image that shows the company name, facility, and date of Certification along with their earned Tier rating. Tier Certification is by nature exclusive and rigorous. A list of Certifications can be found at computersiteengineering.com/certifiedsites.

One such recipient of a Tier Certification of Design Documents has used the rating to publicize their facility project to great effect: OnePartner, a commercial outsourcer, completed a Tier III Certification of their design documents for their ATAC facility in Duffield, VA, setting a precedent in their industry. Other data center professionals who are interested in learning more about incorporating Tier concepts at their existing or planned sites are invited to attend “Understanding Tiers,” a Site Uptime Network Seminar Series, developed and hosted by the Uptime Institute with faculty from ComputerSite Engineering's Principal consultants. Dates and locations for spring and fall seminars can be found at uptimeinstitute.org.

Consultant bios, white papers and more information about ComputerSite Engineering's consulting services can be found at www.computersiteengineering.com or by contacting Julian Kudritzki, Certification Manager at 505-946-3450 or jkudritzki@computersiteengineering.com.

About ComputerSite Engineering:

Independent of any Engineer-of-Record or manufacturer affiliation, ComputerSite Engineering's consulting teams help clients develop and execute solutions that are responsive to their unique business needs. Since 1985, ComputerSite Engineering has guided and justified data center investments for major organizations that require high levels of continuous availability to conduct business. ComputerSite Engineering's mission is to work with clients to ensure data centers are managed for uninterrupted uptime over sustained periods.

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