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## Stone Group becomes Premier Sponsor

Stone Group, a leading supplier of hardware to the Public Sector, has agreed to become the Premier Sponsor of IT Schools Africa.

IT Schools Africa are delighted to announce that Stone Group has agreed to become the Premier Sponsor of the charity. They will be supporting us in our goal to transform IT education in African.

Stone Group is the UK's largest privately owned hardware manufacturer and technology solutions provider, specialising in the supply and support of ICT and audio-visual solutions to the Public Sector. Last year they invested £0.5M and became the first UK IT manufacturer to operate their own on-site recycling facility. Thanks to this huge investment, Stone can now offer a comprehensive recycling service in all aspects of the waste stream; the company is able to process old computers from Schools that they have replaced with new Stone equipment.

Stone Group have previously helped IT Schools Africa with much needed donations of monitors. By becoming a Premier Sponsor, Stone Group is committing to support IT Schools Africa's work with substantial, regular donations of equipment. As part of the partnership Stone Group will be providing used computers directly to IT Schools Africa's refurbishment workshop at Stafford prison. This will help ensure the future of this restorative justice programme that provides the prisoners with useful work experience and valuable IT skills.

Commenting on the development Tim Barnes, IT Schools Africa's Programme Director, said "We are delighted to be entering into this partnership with Stone Group. It is an important development for the charity and the equipment donated by the company will enable us to help many more schools in Africa, making a real difference to the children there";

Andy Howell, Stone Group's Recycling Manager, commented "Stone Group is delighted to be adding our support to IT Schools Africa in this way. This is effectively a collaborative arrangement by both ourselves and on behalf of our many public sector customers, for whom compliance obligations and legislation has made what should be a relatively straightforward act of donating old equipment to charity overly complicated. IT Schools Africa were carefully selected to receive our support after extensive diligence confirmed how well they not only supply and support the equipment, but also ensure responsible recycling at the end of its secondary life";