



UNEP Launches Business-to-Business (B2B) Environmental Web Portal



Nairobi, March 2001 - UNEP today launched a new Business-to-Business (B2B) web portal, the On-line Halon Trader (www.halontrader.org), to facilitate the international exchange of "banked" halons and reduce the use of newly-produced halons that damage the ozone layer. "It is the first business to business web portal to support compliance with a multilateral environmental agreement" noted Mr. Gary Taylor, the Co-Chair of UNEP's Halons Technical Options Committee, at the recent Meeting of the Parties of the Montreal Protocol.

The On-line Halon Trader is designed for companies that use halons in essential or "critical" applications, including owners, managers and/or operators of fire protection systems, fire control services and other organizations related to fire protection. The On-line Halon Trader provides a virtual marketplace where persons can match demand with supply. Through this free service, companies that need halon for critical applications ("halon seekers") will be able to post listings of specific demand in a virtual "marketplace". Companies or halon banks that can meet this demand with recovered, reclaimed or recycled halon ("halon providers") will be able to respond or post their own listings about halons available for exchange. UNEP provides the platform for this exchange and does not in any manner become party to the transaction between those who seek halons and those who provide halons.

Developed countries phased out halons in 1994 and developing countries should freeze halons in 2002. Worldwide, about 35,000 ODP tonnes of halon are consumed annually. Since 1993, UNEP's halon banking clearinghouse (operated by the Paris-based UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics OzonAction Programme under the Multilateral Fund) has assisted the international exchange of nearly 3,000 ODP tonnes of banked halons 1211, 1301 and 2402, thus avoiding the equivalent demand for virgin halons. The On-line Halon Trader is a new service provided by the clearinghouse to support national halon banking by facilitating the exchange of halons for critical uses via the world wide web.

The On-line Halon Trader seeks to promote the responsible management of halons on both sides of halon banking transactions. As part of the terms of service agreed by anyone submitting a listing on the web site, providers of halons agree that the halons are recovered, recycled, reclaimed or banked and they are not newly-produced ("virgin") halons being sold for the first time. Persons seeking halons who wish to access the listings agree that their organizations have endeavored to reduce, avoid, or eliminate the use of halons to the maximum extent feasible and are seeking recovered, recycled, reclaimed or banked halons for an essential or critical use.

The On-line Halon Trader is open for business at www.halontrader.org.

This web site is part of the information exchange services provided by UNEP to developing countries to help them meet their obligations under the Montreal Protocol. The OzonAction Programme also provides other clearinghouse services as well as assistance with the development of national ODS phase out strategies (Country Programmes) and Institutional Strengthening support. UNEP's clearinghouse services will now unleash the vast potential of the Internet to promote cooperation between industry, government and civil society to find solutions to environmental problems.

For more information, contact:

Mr. Rajendra Shende, Chief UNEP DTIE Energy and OzonAction Unit, Tour Mirabeau, 39-43 quai Andre Citroen, Paris 75739 Cedex 15, France or Tel: (33.1) 44.37.14.50, Fax: (33.1) 44.37.14.74, email: ozonaction@unep.fr, <http://www.uneptie.org/ozone/home.html>
In Nairobi, please contact: Mr. Nelson Sabogal, Senior Scientific Affairs Officer, Ozone Secretariat, P. O Box 30552; tel.: 254-2 623856; fax: 623601; email: nelson.sabogal@unep.org

UNEP News Release 01/39

Note to the Press:

Halons are man-made brominated hydrocarbons that act as very effective fire extinguishants. However, because they are three to ten times more deadly in depleting the ozone layer as compared to chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) they are controlled under the Montreal Protocol. Their production and consumption has been phased out in developed countries by 1994. The freeze in consumption and production of halons in developing countries will occur in 2002, with a 100% phase out following in 2010. In critical applications like aircraft and defence, effective alternatives have not been found (particularly for halon-1301). The trading of recycled halons (i.e. that produced before 1994) between developed and developing countries is therefore allowed to meet such critical applications and avoid the production of new halons.

At their 4th meeting in Copenhagen from 23-25 November 1992, the Parties to the Montreal Protocol urged all countries to encourage recovery, recycling and reclamation of halons in order to meet the needs of all Parties, particularly developing countries. They also called upon Parties importing recovered or recycled halons to apply, when deciding on the use of those substances, the essential-use criteria set out in the 1991 report of the Halons Technical Options Committee. The purpose of these criteria is to minimize the use of halons in non-essential applications. At the same meeting, the Parties requested the UNEP to function as a clearinghouse for information relevant to international halon bank management.

A halon bank is the total quantity of halon existing at a given moment in a facility, organization, country, or region. It includes halon contained in fixed fire protection systems, portable fire extinguishers, mobile fire extinguishers and that kept in storage (i.e. containers). Halon bank management is a method of managing a supply of banked halon. Bank management consists of keeping track of halon quantities at each stage: initial filling, installation, "recycling" and storage. A major goal of a halon bank is to avoid demand for new (virgin) halons by re-deploying halons from decommissioned systems or non-essential applications to essential uses. Halon banks are usually managed by a clearinghouse, i.e. an office that facilitates contact between halon owners and halon buyers. There are over 20 national, private sector and military halon banks around the world today.

One ODP tonne = 1 MT multiplied by the ozone depleting potential (ODP) of a substance.

For information only. Not an official record

About the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics

The mission of the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics is to help decision-makers in government, local authorities and industry develop and adopt policies and practices that:

- are cleaner and safer;
- make efficient use of natural resources;
- ensure adequate management of chemicals;
- incorporate environmental costs;
- reduce pollution and risks for humans and the environment.

The UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (UNEP DTIE), with its head office in Paris, is composed of one centre and four units:

- The International Environmental Technology Centre (Osaka), which promotes the adoption and use of environmentally sound technologies with a focus on the environmental management of cities and freshwater basins, in developing countries and countries in transition.
- Production and Consumption (Paris), which fosters the development of cleaner and safer production and consumption patterns that lead to increased efficiency in the use of natural resources and reductions in pollution.
- Chemicals (Geneva), which promotes sustainable development by catalyzing global actions and building national capacities for the sound management of chemicals and the improvement of chemical safety world-wide, with a priority on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and Prior Informed Consent (PIC, jointly with FAO).
- Energy and OzonAction (Paris), which supports the phase-out of ozone depleting substances in developing countries and countries with economies in transition and promotes good management practices and use of energy, with a focus on atmospheric impacts. The UNEP/RISØ Collaborating Centre on Energy and Environment supports the work of the Unit.
- Economics and Trade (Geneva), which promotes the use and application of assessment and incentive tools for environmental policy and helps improve the understanding of linkages between trade and environment and the role of financial

institutions in promoting sustainable development.

UNEP DTIE activities focus on raising awareness, improving the transfer of information, building capacity, fostering technology co-operation, partnerships and transfer, improving understanding of environmental impacts of trade issues, promoting integration of environmental considerations into economic policies and catalyzing global chemical safety.

[Back to the Press Releases page](#)



© 2005 UNEP DTIE

Maintained by ozonaction@unep.fr

Updated On: June 14, 2001

[Help](#) | [Search](#) | [Sitemap](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Home](#)