



## environmental alert

### **ECA Urges Members to Avoid Tantalum Mined in Restricted Areas of Congo**

ARLINGTON, Va., April 16, 2001 – The Electronic Components, Assemblies & Materials Association (ECA) has issued an alert for tantalum ore coming from mines in environmentally protected areas of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

ECA, the electronic components sector of the Electronic Industries Alliance (EIA), represents many of the U.S. manufacturers that use tantalum ore in their products.

The environmental concerns include allegations of tantalum ore being mined in violation of restrictions in protected areas of the Congo, including Kahuzi-Biega National Park and the Okapi Wildlife Reserve. ECA supports the attached release from the Tantalum-Niobium International Study Center (TIC).

ECA is encouraging its member companies and the electronics industry to procure tantalum from sources that do not use African ore.

“We believe that our manufacturers can produce excellent products at competitive prices without relying on tantalum ore mined in environmentally protected areas of Africa,” says Bob Willis, ECA president.

The Electronic Components, Assemblies & Materials Association (ECA) represents manufacturers and producers of passive electronic components, component arrays and assemblies, and materials and support services. It is a sector of the Electronic Industries Alliance (EIA), comprising more than 2,100 members that represent 80 percent of the \$550-billion U.S. electronics industry. ECA members benefit from a dynamic link into a network of programs and activities in areas such as business and technical information, market research trends and analysis, access to industry and government leaders, technical and education training, and others. For more information, go to [www.ec-central.org](http://www.ec-central.org).

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*Attachment: TIC Release*

