

Cohen Electronics and BlueOak Arkansas Announce Exclusive Supply Contract

*Cohen Electronics commits 100% of its Precious Metal and Copper intermediates to
BlueOak Arkansas in 2017*

Middletown OH— 4/18/2017 — Cohen Electronics and BlueOak Arkansas have announced an exclusivity contract for the processing of 100% of Cohen’s circuit board scrap at the BlueOak Arkansas facility. The e-scrap is generated at Cohen’s world-class e-waste shredding operation in Middletown, Ohio and will be converted into precious metal bearing copper shot produced at the BlueOak facility.

BlueOak’s first-of-a kind facility in Osceola, Arkansas uses proprietary, environmentally-friendly technology to recover strategic metals and precious metals from end-of-life electronic scrap. BlueOak is backed by reputed investors including Arkansas Teachers Retirement System and KPCB, a top Silicon Valley venture capital fund. The facility is expected to be fully commissioned and operational in Q2 2017.

“BlueOak’s vision is to ensure the secure and sustainable recovery of strategic metals contained in end-of-life electronics within the U.S.,” said Ahab Garas, BlueOak Arkansas’ CEO. “Our goal is to set and enforce the highest possible standards in secure data destruction and sustainable e-recycling. We want to make sure no e-scrap ends up in countries where it is processed illegally using methods that not only damage people’s health and the environment, but also pose a U.S. national security risk.”

As global technology trends continue to accelerate and with the rapid proliferation in data generated by consumers and businesses today, the secure destruction of end-of-life electronics is absolutely paramount. Prior to BlueOak, there have been no domestic e-scrap smelting capabilities in the U.S. In the absence of complete destruction of e-scrap in the U.S. until now, and constant outflow of e-waste to countries where illegal methods are used to recover metal value, there has been the potential for significant data security risk. Cohen has long contended with that risk, and the alignment of its and BlueOak's vision and values on such issues helped pave the way for their new deal.

Cohen, a leading processor of e-waste in the U.S., is committed to ensuring the highest possible standards for secure data destruction and sustainability within its IT asset disposition and e-waste recycling operations. In keeping with that mission, Cohen is partnering with BlueOak via the exclusivity contract to have BlueOak process 100% of Cohen's precious metal e-scrap at BlueOak's facility.

"We believe there can be no shortcuts when it comes to data security and environmental standards," said Tyler Fojtik, Cohen's VP of Finance. "Our clients trust Cohen to provide a safe, secure, and environmentally-responsible end-of-life solution for their IT assets. Our new partnership with BlueOak further enhances our best-in-class destruction and recycling services and in doing so helps us raise the bar for secure and sustainable e-waste processing."