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## **Accounting based LCA of an ICT network product**

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### **Summary**

The life cycle assessment (LCA) method has been mentioned as one alternative to improve the quality of eco-design in companies but there are still many practical problems before the approach can be used in everyday environmental management of companies. An interesting approach inside the LCA framework, which could overcome most of the practical challenges, is the input-output life cycle assessment (IO-LCA). This study tests the suitability of the IO-LCA in screening the life cycle impacts of a sophisticated ICT network product by using readily available accounting data. The study found that the energy in the use phase dominated the results contributing the most of the life cycle impacts but also some manufacturing related processes were identified to be of significance. Based on the study, it seems that the IO-LCA approach clearly offers added value to the environmental management of companies. The IO-LCA could provide a very fast access to the key life cycle characteristics of the product while it produces results comparable with more detailed LCA studies.