

Summary: M&A: Sumitomo Takes Equity Stake in U.S. ITAD Firm GreenTek, Betting on AI-Driven Hardware Disposal

Published: 14 July 2026 | Author: David Daoud

Sumitomo Corporation has taken an equity stake in GreenTek Solutions, a Texas-based IT asset disposition (ITAD) firm, making GreenTek an equity-method affiliate as Sumitomo enters the U.S. market for enterprise IT hardware reuse and recycling. The investment positions Sumitomo to capture value from the disposal side of the AI infrastructure buildout, as accelerating hardware replacement cycles in data centers increase the volume of retired servers and storage systems requiring secure erasure, resale, refurbishment or recycling.

The deal reflects a broader pattern already underway in the ITAD sector, where established players and private-equity-backed firms have been consolidating around data center equipment disposition for several years. Sumitomo's entry, structured as a minority equity position rather than a full acquisition, gives the company financial exposure and strategic influence over GreenTek's growth without requiring it to operate outside its core expertise, while preserving the option to deepen the relationship later.

The investment is also framed as a foundation for expansion beyond the United States, with Sumitomo indicating an intent to apply lessons from the GreenTek partnership to similar circular IT initiatives in Japan and other markets. Whether that expansion materializes, and how significant Sumitomo's financial commitment proves to be given the undisclosed size of its stake, will determine whether this deal marks a meaningful strategic shift or a more modest bet on an already-forming trend in enterprise IT lifecycle management.

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