After a transition period, where existing business relationships were analyzed, the BPC tool was fully integrated into the business processes of all Siemens entities since second quarter of calendar year 2009. As of today, approximately 18,000 BPs have been assessed by Siemens entities worldwide.

The first task in the qualification process requires a front-end risk assessment of the prospective business partner, which consists of two elements:
1. an integrity check conducted through an Internet search; and,
2. a questionnaire containing a series of risk classification questions such as interaction of the BP with government officials, the concrete work scope, the TI/CPI rating of the country and what compensation or other benefit the business partner will receive.

Based on the answers to these questions and the results of the integrity check, the BPC Tool classifies the relationship to business partners as “lower risk,” “medium risk,” or “higher risk.” The risk category assigned to a prospective business partner determines the scope and detail of the remaining due diligence review. As part of lower risk due diligences basic “danger sign” questions have to be answered and documented in the BPC tool. For medium or higher risk due diligences, detailed information must be obtained, such as prospective partner’s business activities, ownership, interaction with the government, detailed work scope and references as well as certain documentation, such as registration, bank account information and reports from external sources (e.g. Dun & Bradstreet). The level of associated risk also determines automatically who within Siemens may ultimately approve the proposed business partner.

The scalability of the system and user friendly interface has sparked significant interest from other companies, to such an extent that Siemens is exploring making it commercially available. Further, the Siemens BP Compliance Due Diligence Tool was singled out in our SEC/DOJ settlement as the “state of the art system.” The Siemens BP tool sets the standard for organizations that wish to partner with other companies and provides the confidence necessary that these partners will be able to maintain the high standards of ethics that we insist on in all companies with which we work.