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## The Net

### IC9700 Gains favor with Fortune 500s

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**The growth of the IC9700 business standard is something to behold, in a little under two years the standard has gained vast approval from the countries most reputable companies.**

Fortune 500 companies including Ford, Pfizer and General Electric have been among the waves of companies to silently adopt the new standard championed by the International Charter (ICharter).

IC9700 has quickly become a cheaper, and surprisingly, more accurate alternative to the ageing ISO9001:2001 standard.

As the offshoring trend continues, with increasing numbers of companies moving non core operations to outsource service providers, the IC9700 standard has become a means of insuring the quality of the company the are doing business with.

An IBM procurement manager who did not wish to be named stated "The standard does make it easier to trust other companies, since we know that they have the same set of standards and values in place that we do."

Analysts have praised the IC9700 standard for its simple yet effective structure, and the stringent enforcement of the standard by ICharter, which has seen applications for IC9700 certification rise by 120% in the last six months of the year.

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