Focusing on sustainability in ultrasound

bkSpecto, bk5000/bk3000 and bkActiv

GE HealthCare

Creating a more sustainable future requires us to care for the planet and its inhabitants

It is essential that we continue to drive progress toward early, precise, and accessible diagnosis and care of more patients. For the planet, it is critical that we do so with a reduced impact on precious and rare resources that are imperative to life. We believe that the advancement of precision medicine, greater digitization of healthcare, and increased access to quality care are fundamental to accomplishing this goal.

We support carbon policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote sustainable development. GE HealthCare is committed to achieving net zero by 2050, and we have signed up to the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) business ambition for 1.5C, a group of visionary corporate leaders taking ambitious climate action, and we have committed to implementing science based targets. This includes a public goal to reduce operational emissions (scope 1 and 2) by 50% by 2030 against a 2019 baseline. As a result of these efforts, we want to enable a more sustainable health system by addressing not only the environmental impacts of our products but also the challenges healthcare professionals and their patients face with resilient, digital solutions.

We are committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2050.

We've set a public goal to reduce operational emissions (scope 1 and 2) by 50% by 2030.

Leading a new era in sustainability for a more resilient tomorrow

We’re creating a world where healthcare has no limits, helping to improve access to care and enable better patient outcomes.

Environmental
Using fewer resources for a healthier planet.

Digital
Transforming healthcare through innovation.

Resilience
Building flexibility and dependability across healthcare systems.

bkSpecto, bk5000/bk3000 and bkActiv help create a more sustainable tomorrow

Our systems and services help ensure clinicians and the patients they serve have the technology necessary to create a more sustainable and resilient tomorrow.

Reducing environmental impact

- bkSpecto, bk5000/bk3000 and bkActiv systems are designed to be recycled at the end of their product life to minimize unnecessary waste.
- Our Copenhagen manufacturing site is powered entirely by energy from renewable sources.

Improving care

- With our real-time, Active Imaging, visualization and guidance platform, we empower surgeons when it matters most—during procedures.
- Our solutions assist in a wide range of applications in urology, HPB, neurosurgery, spine and robotics while offering enhanced features and ergonomic design.

Contributing to a healthier planet

More than half of the healthcare sector's climate footprint, approximately 53%, is attributable to energy use.[1] As a result, we have strengthened our commitment to environmentally conscious design and we are implementing more sustainable practices across our product manufacturing, sourcing, distribution, installation, and service operations. This includes improving energy efficiency, optimizing the use of limited or rare materials, providing digitally enabled service throughout the product lifespan, and offering refurbishment and recycling options at the end of product life.

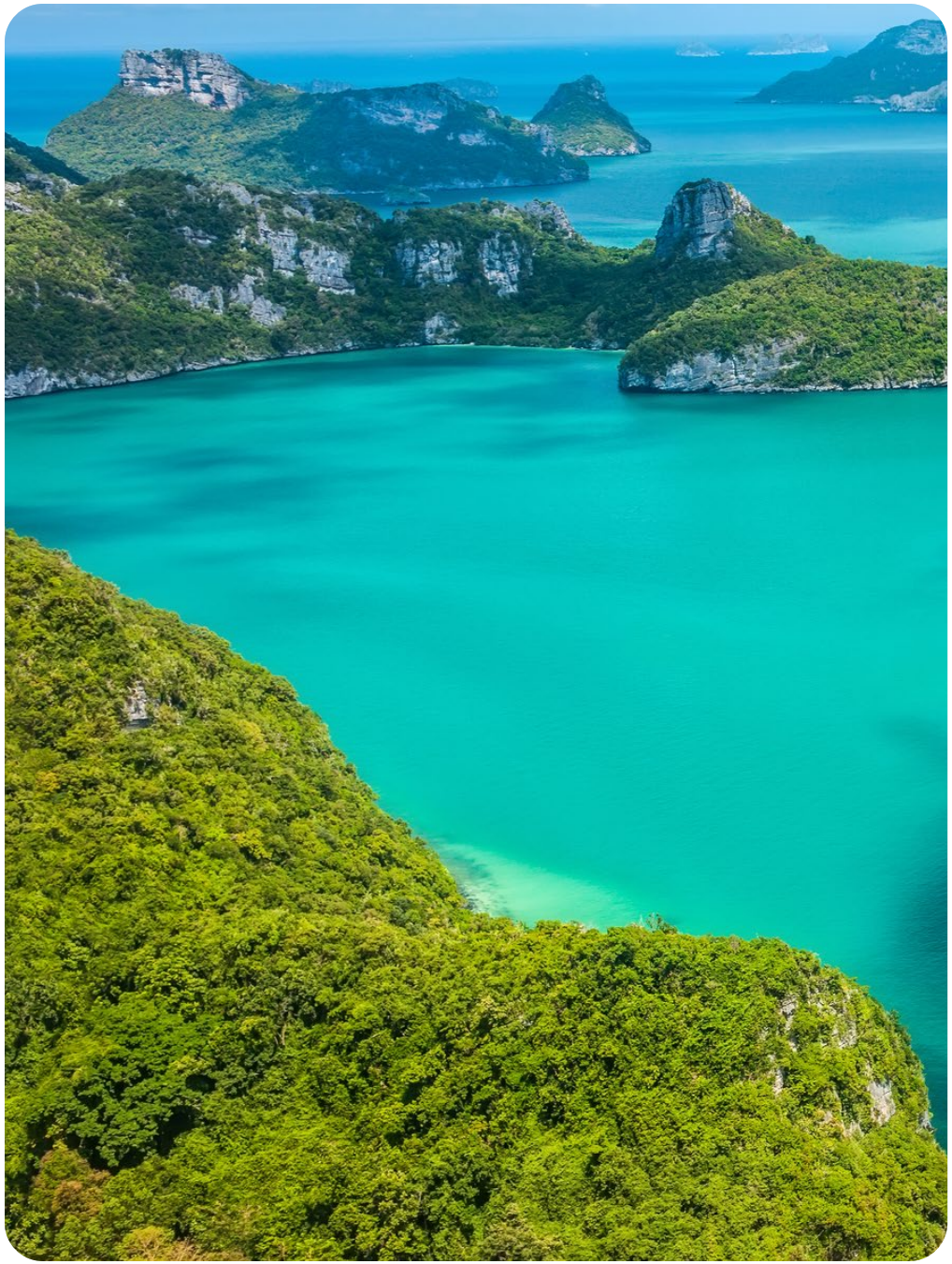
GE HealthCare environmental management system is ISO 14001 certified	Our production and service operations align to ISO 14001 standards.
We're committed to environmental product design	This product conforms with IEC60601-1-9:2007.

[1] Health care climate footprint report | Health Care Without Harm (noharm-uscanada.org), based on 2019 report

Materials

GE HealthCare reviews the environmental aspects of the material supply used within our products to increase recyclability and decrease the use of hazardous substances, when possible.

Recyclability	We're committed to high recyclability of our products and reuse when possible.
	bkSpecto, bkActiv and bk5000/bk3000 systems contain recyclable aluminum and steel.
	More than 48% of the raw material in bkSpecto and bkActiv can be recycled including: • Aluminum: 15% • Steel: 33%
	More than 46% of the raw material in bk5000 and bk3000 can be recycled including: • Aluminum: 13% • Steel: 33%
Reduce the use of hazardous substances	EU RoHS directive 2011/65/EU
	REACH (EC) 1907–2006
	Including Commission Delegated Directive 2015/863



Packaging and distribution

GE HealthCare imaging equipment has a robust and multi-sourced supply chain for systems and spare parts across our product portfolios.

Product packaging

bkSpecto:

- Wood: 0%
- PE Plastic: 9.58 kg / 66%
- Corrugated cardboard: 4.95 kg / 34%

bk5000/bk3000 and bkActiv:

- Wood: 10.3 kg / 51%
- PE Plastic: 4.6 kg / 22%
- Corrugated cardboard: 5.48 kg / 27%

Product transportation

53% Air transport
47% Truck transport

Manufacturing

Through our environmental reviews, we also focus on implementing more renewable energy and reducing waste, when possible.

Renewable energy

Our Copenhagen site is powered entirely by energy from renewable sources.

Environmentally friendly commuting options include EV charging stations and bicycle friendly facilities including a bike shed, changing rooms and showers.

A 246MWh/year solar system will go live in 2024 resulting in a CO2-emmissions reduction of 125 tons/year.

Reducing electricity

A refurbished lighting system in the manufacturing facility uses exclusively LED lighting that shuts off during periods of inactivity with projected yearly energy consumption from lighting reduced by approximately 50%.

Product utilization

Our real-time imaging products are designed to help enable energy efficiency through dedicated features and advanced applications to reduce the environmental impact. Ergonomic design can help to enhance health and potentially reduce environmental impacts, such as reducing waste and saving energy.

Ergonomically designed

Reduce staff burden

Ergonomic features include a highly portable user-adaptable design with electronic adjustable height and keyboard, articulating and height adjustable monitor, and lightweight transducers. These attributes combine with a control panel which can move freely in all directions to make the bkSpecto, bk5000/bk3000 and bkActiv ergonomic-friendly.

The bkSpecto has an adjustable monitor: 255 mm vertical height adjustment. Swivel left-right: +/- 90° from center.

---

bk5000/bk3000 and bkActiv have an adjustable monitor:
260 mm vertical height adjustment, 760 mm to 1030 mm.
Swivel left-right: +/- 90° from center. Articulating arm swivels 200 degrees.

Monitor and articulating arm swivels 290°.

The probes have been ergonomically designed to:

- Handle and manipulate with ease
- Connect to the system with one hand
- Lightweight and balanced
- Have rounded edges and smooth surfaces

Reduce noise

Typical acoustic noise: max 35dB

Product utilization

Guidance for product utilization	Instructions (such as the Instructions for Use and the Care & Cleaning Guides) are provided for use of the equipment to minimize the environmental impact during installation, use, and operation.
Reduce energy consumption during use	The system is designed to auto freeze after 20 minutes of inactivity.
Power consumption	bkSpecto Off Mode: 0W Standby/Idle (no scan): 6W Freeze Mode: 116W Scan Mode: 170W bk5000/bk3000 and bkActiv Off Mode: 0W Standby/Idle (no scan): 5W Freeze Mode: 180W Scan Mode: 295W
Reduce consumable energy utilization	There are zero direct carbon emissions at place of use.

End of product life

We are increasingly putting our retired products' materials back into the supply chain to maximize efficient use and minimize unnecessary waste. This circularity model enables our imaging products to extend their clinical impact through longer lifespans while reducing the environmental footprint. Additionally, we offer our customers support for upgrades and services throughout a product's lifespan, when available, to maintain optimal performance and help drive better patient outcomes.

Our refurbishment programs involve an extensive inspection and testing process, designed to bring equipment back to its original certified manufacturing specifications. If the system is not suitable for refurbishment, eligible parts are harvested for reuse after quality and performance testing, while the remaining parts are returned to dedicated recycling facilities.

Guidance for end of lifecycle	Equipment instructions (such as the Instructions for Use and the Care & Cleaning Guides) are provided to minimize the environmental impact for disposal or recycling.
Upgradeable hardware and software options are provided as a solution to extend the product lifespan.	These systems can be upgraded with the latest software release up to twice a year in order to extend the lifespan.
Parts harvesting and refurbishment options are provided to reduce waste and environmental impacts while extending imaging access to less advantaged regions.	bkSpecto, bk5000/bk3000 and bkActiv system parts are eligible for assessment through the refurbishment program, in which they are assessed for refurbishment, harvesting, or recycling at the appropriate time in the lifespan.
Waste reduction	This system is in accordance with Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) regulations.

Digitizing healthcare through transformative innovations for a more resilient tomorrow

We are committed to investing in digital capabilities that help accelerate clinical decision making, optimize imaging operations, and drive efficiencies in exam workflows, all of which can improve patient outcomes. Enabling digital transformation will further enhance our predictive and maintenance service operations for the life of your products.

We are also dedicated to driving a more resilient and sustainable future in healthcare. Many factors, including the pandemic, climate-related weather disasters, and supply-chain issues amplified this need. Managing operations through these challenges requires resilience and perseverance.

Optimizing imaging operations

Our advanced digital solutions are designed to increase efficiencies across the surgical visualization spectrum without increasing the administrative and training burden on clinicians.

Increase productivity and consistency	Team viewer is available for remote service.
Cybersecurity	GE HealthCare's Design Engineering Privacy and Security (DEPS) process follows GDPR, HIPAA, NIST 800-53, NIST 800-30, and NIST CSF requirements.

Enabling intelligent exam workflows

Intelligent automation features help to drive consistency, enable fast, easy exams, and improve workflow with fewer resources.

Reduce setup time	Dedicated user profiles that are customizable (basic/advance)
Reduce exam time	Customizable smart button technology
	Remote control
	Battery back-up
	Workflow improvements: • Tru-focus • Auto-gain • Auto-mode adjustment • Auto prostate calculation • Doppler assist
Ease of use	Our procedure-based software tailors the experience using algorithms to provide the surgeons with presets and fully customized experiences to create a more user-friendly and easy workflow.
Cleanability	Our equipment is designed to be cleaned and disinfected easily. We continue to test and approve new cleaning and disinfecting agents. Visit *Cleaning.GEHealthCare.com* for updates.
	Sterilization of transducers
	Easy to clean keyboard

Creating a healthy world to help enable better patient outcomes.

GEHealthCare.com/about/sustainability

Not all products or features are available in all geographies. Check with your local GE HealthCare representative for availability in your country. Commercial availability of GE HealthCare medical systems is subject to meeting local requirements in a given country or region. Not all features are included in the standard system configuration.Contact a GE HealthCare representative for more information. Intended for healthcare professionals only.

GE HealthCare