

# MICROGENERATION CERTIFICATION SCHEME

## RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

### CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

#### BACKGROUND

The Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) has been established to provide potential operators of small wind turbines with confidence in the power output and annual energy yield of the wind turbines. It also ensures that reliable operation of key safety features of the turbines has been verified. The Scheme introduces a minimum set of requirements that small wind turbines must meet and this must be demonstrated by undertaking a series of tests.

Significant effort is required to perform the testing necessary to comply with the Standards and it is proving a challenge to undertake this testing at a cost that is acceptable to the small wind industry. In view of this, the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) has sponsored a research and development project aimed at exploring the potential for streamlining the certification process for small wind turbines. This project, which is managed by TUV NEL, will involve a number of manufacturers, test laboratories and certification bodies.

#### OVERVIEW

The R&D project will focus on the MCS process from product testing through to final product certification. Its primary aim is to identify improvements that can be made to the process for achieving MCS certification for wind turbines. This project should lead to the development of a more cost effective MCS testing and certification process that reduces the costs for manufacturers of small wind turbines and lowers the perceived barrier of certification. Other benefits may include more appropriate test standards and improved test procedures. Small wind turbine users will benefit from improved confidence in product yield data, durability and safety.

#### FRAMEWORK

TUV NEL, in collaboration with NaREC, BRE Global and British Board of Agrément, will work with manufacturers of small wind turbines in a programme of MCS testing and certification. Most of the product testing will be undertaken at TUV NEL's wind turbine test facility but, where possible, the project will embrace the other routes by which manufacturers can demonstrate compliance with the relevant Standards. Approved approaches for product testing are:

- i. Testing conducted by an independent, UKAS (or equivalent) third-party test laboratory
- ii. Testing conducted by an independent, non-accredited, third-party test laboratory
- iii. Testing conducted at the manufacturer's testing facilities.

In exceptional circumstances, results of testing that has already been conducted at a manufacturer's testing facilities, or elsewhere, may be considered.

A limited number of places are available for manufacturers interested in participating in this R&D project and these places may be allocated on a first-come basis. Manufacturers wishing to participate in the project must satisfy the eligibility criteria and must be willing for details of their involvement and results of the project to be made available publicly. Those manufacturers participating in the project will receive support to complete the testing or certification process for their wind turbine, which should reduce the cost for each participant.

Experience from the overall programme, including manufacturers' perspectives, will be reviewed and options for process improvements will be identified.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

In order to be eligible for inclusion in the MCS R&D project each manufacturer must:

- be committed to gaining certification for their small wind turbine
- have a suitable, production-ready wind turbine available for immediate installation at the test site
- provide all information requested with the initial application
- submit full details of the product to be tested when requested
- enter into a formal contract with one of the collaborating partners in the project for product testing and/or certification
- prepare a short report at the end of the project offering constructive comments on areas for process improvement.

Each manufacturer may only offer one wind turbine for inclusion in the R&D project. Wind turbine rating must not exceed 50 kW.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

Wind turbine manufacturers wishing to participate in this R&D project should register their interest using the application form attached. This application form should be submitted via email to Paul Rochester, DECC no later than 5 pm on 20 April 2010.

Successful applicants will be informed within one week of the closing date and will be asked to provide full details of the product being offered for inclusion in the project.

Demand for participation in this project is expected to be high, therefore, eligibility criteria will be adhered to strictly. Any failure to comply with these criteria (including requests for additional information, entering into a formal contract with a project collaborator or delivery of a wind turbine by the agreed date) may result in the offer to participate being withdrawn and the manufacturer being replaced by the next eligible candidate on the list.

Applications should be submitted to:

Paul Rochester  
Department of Energy and Climate Change  
email: paul.rochester@decc.gsi.gov.uk