



PRESS RELEASE
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**TUV NEL to host international committee of small wind turbine
experts**

Glasgow based testing and measurement specialist, TUV NEL, is hosting a meeting of the International Electrotechnical Committee (IEC), comprising of small wind turbine experts, at its headquarters in East Kilbride. The meeting will be held from 13th to 17th July and is the seventh in a series to discuss the third edition of the design and safety standard for small wind turbines, due to be published next year.

“Having established a long standing association with the wind energy industry since the early 1980’s with the set up of TUV NEL’s Myres Hill test site, we are delighted to be hosting this important meeting”, said Alistair Mackinnon of TUV NEL. “Around 25 experts in the field of small wind turbines are expected to attend from as far as Australia, the Far East, North America and Europe.

“Our staffs have served on a number of the IEC meetings over the years and we are pleased to be contributing to this latest edition as it will address many of the issues faced by the emerging small wind industry today. As the only UKAS accredited small wind testing organisation, we are working very closely with the industry to develop best practice in the research, development and testing of small wind turbines.”

Having granted its first MCS certification in September last year to Stewarton and East Kilbride based small wind turbine manufacturer, Proven Energy, TUV NEL is currently working with over 20 manufacturers who are pursuing the MCS certification.

“The MCS scheme covers a range of elements, including acoustics, power performance and durability”, said Alistair. “But the testing requirements are challenging and onerous as they rely on current best practice across a turbine’s electrical and acoustic performance, including a number of factors related to product safety and the design file.

“A typical test takes a minimum of six months, but more realistically, the testing duration is around nine months. As wind turbines rely on the wind, the testing requirements are subject to the vagaries of the weather.

“The IEC meeting in Glasgow will seek to address many of the current issues, including braking systems, towers and supporting structures and, the effects of turbulence on turbine performance and longevity”, concluded Alistair.

The UK government’s feed-in-tariff scheme is only available for certified products and TUV NEL, being one of only a small number of accredited certification bodies, offers a complete one stop shop for all small wind turbine manufacturers looking for a certifying body under the MCS. The meeting is by invitation only and is subject to strict IEC governance.

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Notes to the Editor:

About TUV NEL: TUV NEL is a leading international technology services organisation. With a successful track record of more than five decades delivering world class innovative solutions to difficult problems we provide services, solutions and technology to clients across many industries including renewable and sustainable energy, oil & gas, government, manufacturing, on a local and a global basis. It is part of the TÜV SÜD Group, the leading international service organisation. With over 13,000 employees, it is represented worldwide at more than 600 locations.

TUV NEL wind turbine background: TUV NEL has made significant contributions to the development of renewable energy technology, including the development and testing of large-scale hydroelectric equipment, pioneering wave energy research and performance evaluation of modern wind-energy technology. Wind energy systems are an area of particular expertise where TUV NEL has the capability to design, model and test complete systems or individual components. The UK’s National Measurement System has also provided underpinning metrology and knowledge transfer that will allow the wind industry to establish new test procedures and methodologies.

Myres Hill wind turbine testing facility: TUV NEL has operated a wind turbine test site at Myres Hill, 10 km from its offices in East Kilbride since the early 1980’s. Myres Hill test site will soon be home to around

15 wind turbines as they will be evaluated against the robust criteria laid down in the standards established under the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS). TUV NEL are being supported in these endeavours by both the National Measurement Office and the Department for Energy and Climate Change.

About the Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS): The MCS, which falls under DECC (Department of Energy and Climate Change), was created to stimulate and develop a consumer led demand for devices offering small-scale low carbon energy generation, suitable for domestic and light industrial applications.