

## More information on the EU ETV pre-programme

An information event for the launch of the EU ETV pre-programme is planned in Brussels on **8 November 2010**. The complete programme will be available end September 2010. Pre-registration is possible by mail to: [env-etv@ec.europa.eu](mailto:env-etv@ec.europa.eu)

More information, in particular on preparatory projects and international activities, are available on the ETV webpage on Europa: <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/etv/index.htm>

### BRIEF FACTS ABOUT ADVANCEETV

#### Objectives:

AdvanceETV is a coordination action on Environmental Technology Verification (ETV). The overall target of AdvanceETV is to bring together the already proposed schemes and protocols prepared within the previous EU ETV activities and to link them with outcomes of already existing ETV systems worldwide.

Furthermore AdvanceETV aims at building an international framework for cooperation and mutual recognition by supporting the cooperation of the European Commission and the international ETV activities, e.g. the International Working Group (IWG) on ETV.

#### Approach:

To achieve these aims AdvanceETV will consolidate stakeholder feedback of RTD and EC activities and integrate experiences out of the CEN workshop agreement (CWA) elaboration and use. To foster recognition by harmonisation, a standardisation framework will be identified for international recognition of the different verification procedures. Cross cutting issue workshops ensure feedback and exchange between these different areas. An expert board with ETV system representatives from Canada, U.S., South Korea, Japan, and other provide the direct link to international ETV activities and the IWG on ETV, which is crucial to bring forward mutual recognition, to support cooperation by co-/joint verification and to promote harmonisation.

#### Time frame:

01/2009 to 07/2012

#### Finances:

Total project volume: 1.325 million Euros; ~ 75,4 % EU funding within the 7th Framework Programme

#### Organisations

**DECHEMA e.V. – Society for Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology**  
Frankfurt / Main, Germany  
([www.dechema.de](http://www.dechema.de))

**IVL – Swedish Environmental Research Institute**  
Stockholm, Sweden ([www.ivl.se](http://www.ivl.se))

**DHI, Hoersholm, Denmark**  
([www.dhigroup.com](http://www.dhigroup.com))

**IPTS – Institute for Prospective Technology Studies, Seville, Spain**  
([www.jrc.es](http://www.jrc.es))

**Fundación LABEIN**  
Derio, Spain ([www.labein.es](http://www.labein.es))

**UK EA – UK Environment Agency, Bristol, UK**  
([www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk))

**IETU – Institute for Ecology of Industrial Areas**  
Katowice, Poland ([www.ietu.katowice.pl](http://www.ietu.katowice.pl))

**Deltares – Stichting Deltares**  
Delft, Netherlands ([www.deltares.nl](http://www.deltares.nl))

**OCETA – Ontario Centre for Environmental Technology Advancement**  
Mississauga, Canada ([www.oceta.on.ca](http://www.oceta.on.ca))

**CEN – European Committee for Standardization, Brussels, Belgium**  
([www.cen.eu](http://www.cen.eu))

**Battelle – Battelle Memorial Institute**  
Columbus, Ohio, United States  
([www.battelle.org](http://www.battelle.org))

**et – environment and technology**  
Esslingen, Germany ([www.et-ertel.de](http://www.et-ertel.de))



### IMPRINT/CONTACT

**Coordinating institution:**  
DECHEMA e.V.  
Theodor-Heuss-Allee 25  
60486 Frankfurt am Main  
Germany  
[www.dechema.de](http://www.dechema.de)

**Coordinator:**  
Dr. Thomas Track  
Phone: +49 69 7564-427  
Fax: +49 69 7564-117  
Email: [track@dechema.de](mailto:track@dechema.de)

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## Coordination Action on Environmental Technology Verification

A COORDINATION ACTION FUNDED BY THE 7TH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME OF THE EUROPEAN UNION



### EDITORIAL

## Boosting new technologies through performance verification: the new EU Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) pre-programme

Europe is confronted with urgent environmental challenges such as climate change, the unsustainable use of resources and the loss of biodiversity. Innovative environmental technologies could play a significant role in addressing them and, at the same time, could contribute positively to EU competitiveness and growth.

Among the difficulties facing new environmental technologies, breaking into the market and accessing potential users are often important factors. Empirical evidence suggests that purchasers tend to opt for well-established technologies with a track-record of performing according to specifications. A lack of reliable information about potentially excellent new technologies, coupled with an inaccurate assessment of their risks, benefits and limitations, discourages both investors and potential customers. This in turn creates a disincentive to further technological development, in particular among Small and Medium-sized Enterprises. As a result, the lower level of further innovation impacts negatively on the competitiveness of EU eco-industries, and potentially more effective and less costly environmental protection measures may never see the light of day.

The EU Environmental Technology Verification pre-programme („ETV“) – operating on a voluntary basis as part of a build-up towards a formalised system – aims to generate independent and highly credible information about new environmental technologies. It will do this by verifying that performance claims put forward by technology developers and vendors are accurate, complete, fair and based on re-

liable test results. The objective of the ETV pre-programme is three-fold:

- To help developers and vendors, especially SMEs, provide objective and reliable evidence on the performance of new eco-technologies they are bringing to the market, in order to convince investors and potential customers about the merits of the technologies;
- To support technology purchasers (public or private), who need to base their buying decisions on sound information, widely recognised as scientifically valid and acceptable as proof of evidence in tendering and purchasing procedures;
- To facilitate the implementation of public policies and regulations by providing citizens, regulators and decision-makers with solid information on the level of performance achievable by new eco-technologies ready for the market.

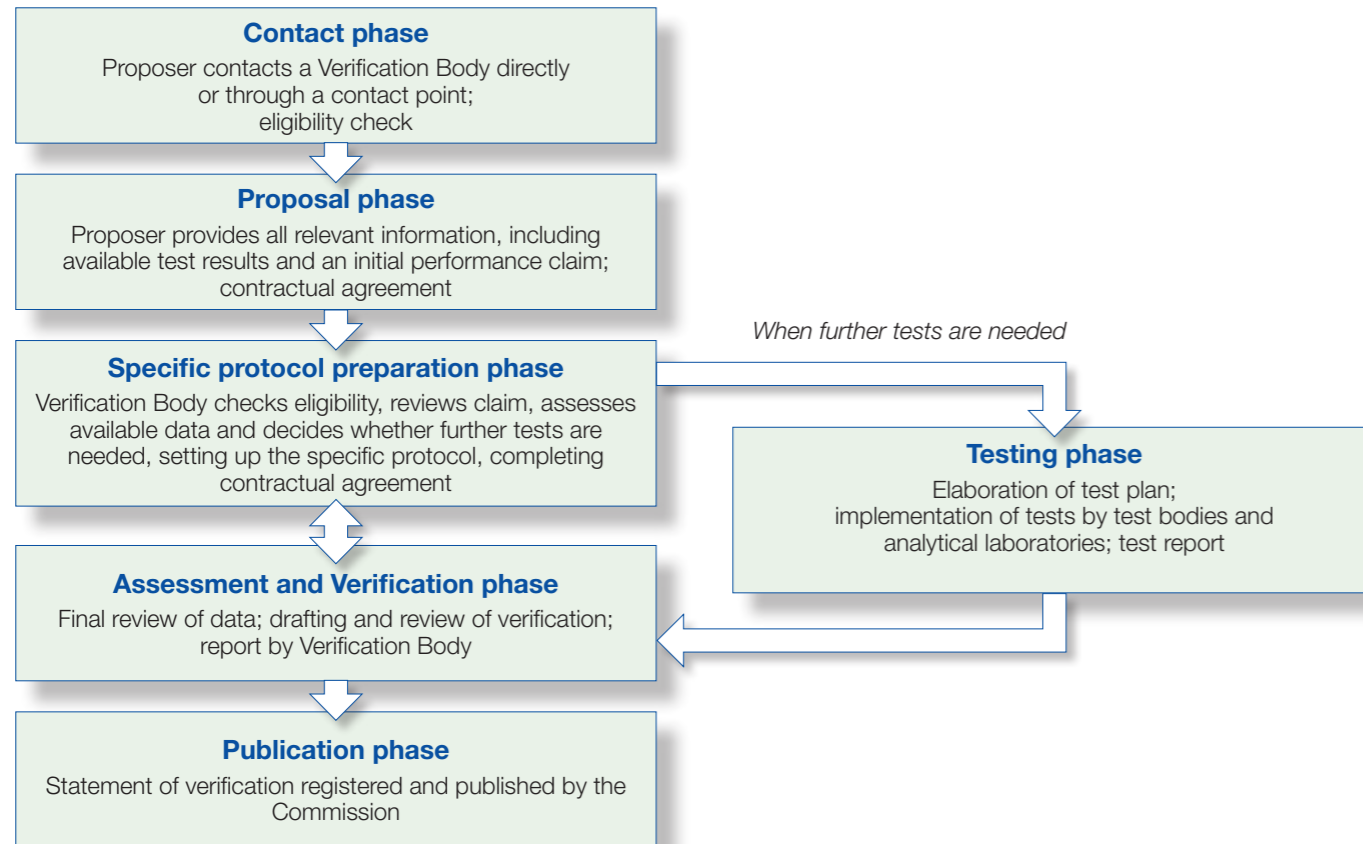
Seven Member States have volunteered to participate in the EU ETV pre-programme so far: Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Poland and the United Kingdom. Verification Bodies (see below) will be accredited in participating countries in the coming months, offering verification services to all interested manufacturers of innovative environmental technologies. The technology scope of the ETV pre-programme will include three or four technology areas in the following preliminary list:

1. Water treatment and monitoring (monitoring of water quality, treatment of drinking water and of waste water)
2. Soil and groundwater monitoring and remediation (monitoring of soil pollution, of groundwater, remediation in-situ, depollution of sediments and sludge)
3. Clean production and processes (savings in material resources, energy efficiency in industry and buildings, prevention and reduction of industrial pollution and waste)
4. Materials, waste and resources (separation and sorting of solid waste, recycling of materials, end-of-life products and chemicals)
5. Environmental technologies in agriculture (abatement of air and water pollution, including odours, re-use or recycling of nutrients and organic waste, reduction of pesticide use)
6. Air pollution monitoring and abatement (air emissions monitoring, abatement of pollution from stationary sources)
7. Energy technologies (renewable sources of energy, energy from waste, other types of energy production)

**P. Henry,**  
Principal Administrator,  
European Commission, DG Environment

## Main elements of the ETV pre-programme

For the technology manufacturer (the proposer), the main relationship will be with a Verification Body which is competent for implementing ETV in the relevant technology area. The procedure to be followed can be summarised by the following chart:



The ETV process itself does not include the actual testing of a new technology, but will review test results in order to assess the credibility of a given performance claim. If available test data are not suf-

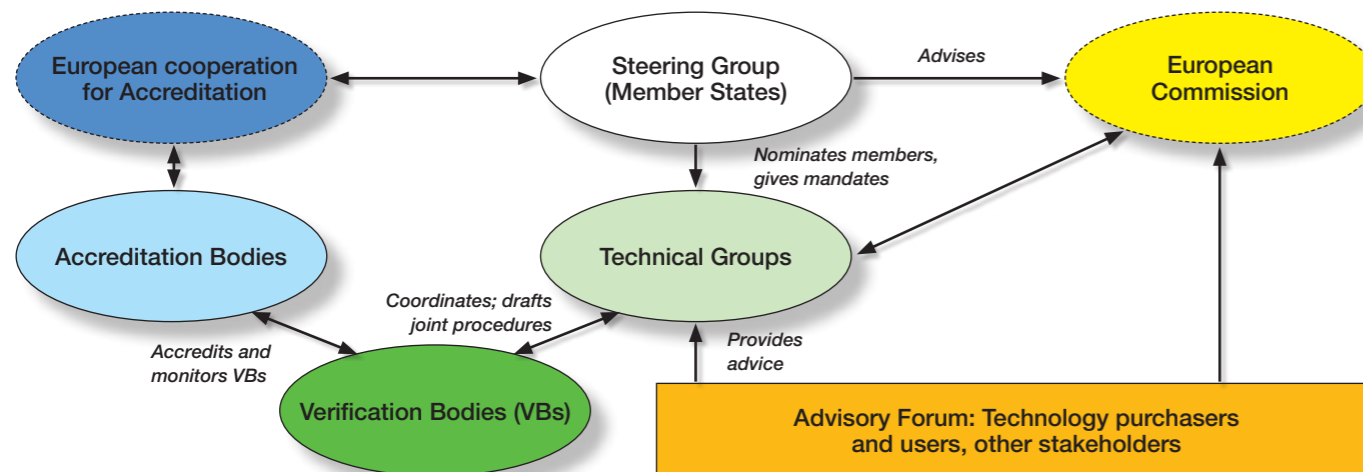
ficient, test bodies (and possibly analytical laboratories) will be contacted to perform further tests. The value added by ETV will be the assurance of the credibility of the claim as to the performance of the rele-

vant technology, thus facilitating subsequent recognition of the excellence of the product by purchasers across the European Union.

**Verification Bodies** will be accredited by national **Accreditation Bodies** to perform verification activities for a given area of technology. This will ensure that the Verification

Bodies have the capacity and independency to provide high quality services under ETV. In order to harmonise specific procedures or requirements in a given

technology area, Verification Bodies will also participate in thematic technical groups. The overall organisation of the ETV pre-programme can be summarised as follows:



## Consistency with other EU policies and strategies

ETV does not aim to substitute existing regulatory or voluntary systems such as type-approval or labels; rather, the aim is to fill a gap for those technologies falling outside regulations or standards and for innovations which do not fit into existing legislative, labelling or standards frameworks. ETV does not change legal obligations but it can facilitate proof of compliance by providing objective evidence about environmental performance. Neither does ETV compare technologies directly, but rather provides potential purchasers and users with reliable information, to facilitate objective comparison and thus informed decisions.

Some differences with existing schemes and legislation at EU level can be highlighted:

- ETV is concerned with industrial products and processes and should pro-

vide detailed information for use in business-to-business relations; eco-labels relate to consumer products and aim to identify greener products based on agreed criteria;

- The Eco-Design Directive on Energy-using Products (and most EU internal market Directives) define mandatory criteria on the design of products, to be understood as minimum requirements whereas ETV is not about defining minimum requirements, but about ensuring the credibility of performance claims put forward by a producer;

- The EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) relates to environmental management within organisations, not to the performance of specific technologies; however, Statements of Verification issued by ETV might be used to

facilitate the definition and verification of participants' commitments under EMAS;

- The EU Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive<sup>1</sup> relates to permitting procedures under which Member States define the obligations of some production plants in terms of emission limits. The *Best Available Techniques* defined in this context refer largely to technologies already in use, for which a track record on environmental performance already exists. By addressing innovative technologies arriving on the market, ETV could add value to the process, as emerging new technologies might well perform more favourably than existing 'best available' technologies.

## Costs of verification and funding of the ETV pre-programme

The total cost of individual verifications can vary widely, depending on the technology area, the complexity of the technology itself and the availability or otherwise of quality-assured test results. Based on non-EU ETV programmes (US, Canada) and EU certification schemes, preliminary estimates of the total costs average out at about € 50 000 to € 90 000 per verification. This excludes any further independent testing of the technology, where costs vary considerably.

In order to limit the cost of the service for technology developers, the ETV pre-programme endeavours to cover the fixed costs of the system as far as possible through public funding, leaving the variable cost of verification to normal commercial transactions (and competition) between verification bodies and proposers.

Direct support to technology manufacturers, in particular SMEs, for verifications under the ETV pre-programme could also

be requested in the framework of larger funding programmes, at EU and Member State level:

- Verification under ETV may be proposed as the last step in those research and development projects supported by research funding, aimed at developing environmental technologies up to the point where they are ready for the market;

- Under EU programmes such as LIFE+ and CIP<sup>2</sup> eco-innovation, ETV procedures could be integrated into larger projects including for example industrial investments, industry-research partnerships or prototypes;

- A number of SME-support schemes in Member States include support to product certification, authorisation procedures or marketing of new products and services. A study commissioned by the Commission in 2008 concluded that many of them could cover support

to individual verifications under ETV with little or no modification to their support policies.

Technology manufacturers typically use the full-scale demonstration or prototype roll-out typically undertaken before the marketing of new technologies. This is an occasion to invite third-party testing of these technologies, with a view to gathering test data. In order to fulfil the quality requirements of ETV, a complete verification procedure at this stage under ETV could also be discussed with a competent verification body. Any additional cost due to the requirements on data and data quality are then likely to be minimal when integrated into such larger projects, and the cost of additional verification tests might then be avoided.

<sup>1</sup> Currently under review, but the use of Best Available Technology reference documents ('BREFs') is expected to be retained under the emerging Industrial Emissions Directive.

<sup>2</sup> Competitiveness and Innovation Programme.