

MCERTS 2011 – a Remarkable Success

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Following the sudden closure of the Bretby Conference Centre, the organisers of MCERTS 2011 had to find a new home in time for this year's air emissions monitoring event. The International Centre at Telford was chosen as the new location and following some frantic re-organising the MCERTS 2011 team was naturally delighted to receive unanimously favourable feedback from speakers, delegates and exhibitors.

MCERTS 2011 was organised by the Source Testing Association (STA) and was comprised of a conference, workshops and an exhibition. It provided the latest help and advice on regulations such as the recently published Industrial Emissions Directive (IED), and on monitoring techniques and standards such as EN 14181 and EN 15267. It also provided an opportunity for some of the world's leading instrument manufacturers to launch the latest monitoring technologies.

Summarising feedback from MCERTS participants, Dave Curtis from the STA said, "The new Telford venue was extremely impressive, providing superior facilities for all of the activities that took place. A lot of hard work went into the reorganisation, so it is extremely gratifying that the event was such a success. In addition to improved facilities, Telford also provides us with much greater opportunity to grow and discussions are now underway as to how this can be achieved."

Quantitech traditionally takes a large stand at the exhibition and their Managing Director Keith Golding said: "The new location is a significant improvement with better access and more modern facilities. The event was a great success for Quantitech; we were delighted to receive a high level of interest in the new MCERTS approved HORIBA PG250 SRM and a good number of existing and prospective clients visited our stand and attended our workshops on both FTIR and continuous Dioxins sampling."

Shawn Pullman from Siemens said: "This was our first appearance at MCERTS and we were pleased with the results. The quality and of visitors to both the event itself and to our stand was good and we have some interesting new leads to follow up."

Similarly, Jim Mills from Air Monitors, added: "We enjoyed MCERTS 2011 and had a good response from visitors. Full credit must go to the organisers for arranging a new venue in such a short timeframe."

The event was comprised of a main conference, over 60 workshops and an exhibition featuring almost all of the world's leading suppliers of emissions monitoring equipment and services. Designed to provide delegates with the latest help and advice on forthcoming regulatory requirements, monitoring techniques and standards, MCERTS 2011 provided the air and emissions monitoring community with an opportunity to meet and exchange ideas on how to comply with regulatory requirements and to share best practice.

Conference

Chaired by Rod Robinson, STA Chairman, from NPL, the conference began with a presentation by John Tipping from the Environment Agency, who provided an outline of the Industrial



Emissions Directive (IED) which was published in January 2011.

John explained that the IED will replace existing Directives (IPPC, LCP, WID, Solvent Emissions, and three Titanium Dioxide Directives); it will have the same objectives as the IPPC and other Directives but it also aims to improve consistency of regulation across Europe, so it is more prescriptive in places and the scope has been extended for certain sectors e.g. waste treatment and timber preservation. However, John emphasised two major issues within the IED; firstly, it contains significant reductions in emission limits for large combustion plants and secondly, it adopts a more prescriptive approach in BREFs (Best available techniques REference documents). Crucially, it says that emission limits and other BREF conditions 'shall be the reference for setting permit conditions.'

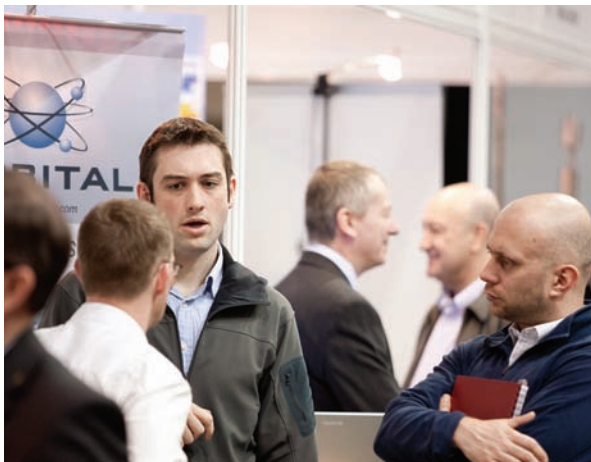
Combustion plant emission limits for SO₂, NO_x and dust have been lowered and the CO limit of 100 mg/Nm³ has been introduced for gas fired plants. From 2016 large coal fired plants (and some older gas fired plants) will have to either install new abatement equipment, reduce operating hours or close. This will impose a large cost on many installations, however, a complex series of LCP derogations exist to extend the period beyond which plant must comply with the new limits.

Operator Monitoring Assessment (OMA)

OMA was introduced to strengthen the auditing of operators' self-monitoring arrangements and the Agency's Paul Wiggins gave a presentation which outlined the main requirements of OMA.

OMA covers the monitoring of emissions to air and water from industrial installations regulated under the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR). It enables the assessment of operators' self-monitoring (including monitoring undertaken on behalf of operators by contractors) using a consistent and transparent approach, and also provides a driver for necessary improvements.

In the course of his presentation Paul cited a number of examples in which process operators had failed to plan in advance of an OMA and performed poorly as a result. He suggested that an 'in-house OMA' in advance of the actual OMA, would reveal any gaps in the required information so that issues could be dealt with in advance.



Improving monitoring quality and consistency

BS EN 14181 is a European Standard that provides a quality assurance procedure for continuous emission monitoring systems (CEMS) on processes falling under both the Waste Incineration (WID) and Large Combustion Plant (LCPD) directives.

Rohit Chirodian from UKAS gave a presentation in which he described the development of a project to improve the consistency and quality of emissions monitoring by providing UKAS accreditation to BS EN 14181. He explained that the project began with a pilot project covering 15 monitoring organisations and culminated in the grant of accreditation for all participants to BS EN 14181 in January 2011. From 1st May 2011 the Environment Agency will no longer accept test reports for BS EN 14181 (QAL2 and Annual Surveillance Testing) that are not accredited.

Rohit explained that in the course of the pilot project, some of the main areas for improvement included staff training records and authorisation, internal audit scheduling, report content, site specific protocol content and spreadsheet validation.

BS EN 14181 is designed to ensure that the correct equipment is employed, that it is set up correctly and that it is running correctly. This last issue was addressed by the Agency's Rick Gould, who emphasised the importance of functional tests by highlighting the potential financial penalties that could accrue, from carbon trading for example, if emission monitors are working incorrectly. Rick's presentation covered the functional tests for Continuous Emissions Monitors (CEMs), which are:

- Alignment and cleanliness
- Integrity of the sampling system
- Documentation and records
- Serviceability
- Leak test
- Zero and span
- Linearity
- Interferences
- Response time
- Report of functional tests

Rick explained that any competent person can perform the functional tests, that competency is going to be specific to certain CEMs and he promoted the concept of preventative maintenance to minimise costs and avoid failures. Finally, he

referred delegates to the Technical Guidance Note 'TGN M20' for further help.

The final Conference presentation was given jointly by Emily Jarvis from Sira and Karsten Pleischer from TUV in Germany who described the change in approach that is underway to align the MCERTS scheme in England and Wales and the German TUV scheme with the development of a European Standard EN 15267.

The EN 15267 series of standards provides a complete system for approval testing and certification (QAL 1) of CEMs which is valid throughout Europe. The presentation described the current UK and German approach to obtaining QAL1 certification and highlighted the cooperation between Sira in the UK and UBA/TUV in Germany and the related benefits to instrument manufacturers.

Sira is now able to accept QAL1 (EN 14181) test data and EN 15267-2 audit data from TUV and use this as the basis for MCERTS certification, and vice versa. This collaboration between the UK and Germany will hopefully provide a foundation for other relevant bodies in Europe.



The presentation also discussed the requirements for updating certification to reflect the current EN 15267 scheme and the methods for doing so. In addition, the speakers mentioned that it may be possible for existing data to be used for the purpose of recertification to the new standard. There are some additional tests and requirements that have been added to EN 15267 from the previous schemes, but much of the original data may be suitable for use and complete retesting can be avoided.

The overall theme of the final presentations was to describe and report on the positive progress being made by the two countries in making EN 15267 certification easier for manufacturers to obtain.

Workshops

A comprehensive series of workshops ran throughout the event, providing visitors with an opportunity to pick from a vast array of subjects. Most of the Workshops were run by the companies that populated the exhibition and the six Workshops rooms were sited within the exhibition so that visitors could drop in to those sessions that caught their interest.

The majority of the workshops were very well attended, some with standing room only, but the most popular were those that were less promotional and provided practical help and advice.

One of the great advantages of the diversity of workshop themes was that the latest standards and almost every common gas species and particulate was covered by one or more workshops, so MCERTS 2011 visitors were able to find an answer to almost any monitoring problem.

Exhibition

The overriding benefit of MCERTS 2011 is that every single participant at the event has a professional interest in the testing and monitoring of gas or particulate emissions and air quality. Consequently, every exhibition stand is of interest to every visitor and every visitor is a potential customer for the exhibitors. As a result, feedback from the exhibitors refers to the 'quality' of the visitors – by this they mean that, as a focused event, MCERTS provides access to the right people.

Land Instrument's Ben Wileman said: "We have had two good days on our stand and the event has provided the perfect platform for us to present our new LANCOM 4 portable gas analyser for the first time in the UK. Additionally, the overall organisation of the exhibition has been very impressive."

Ryan Goater, of PCME, said: "The overall experience has been positive for us and we have received a number of enquiries which we hope will turn into new business. The venue is very impressive and the event itself has proved to be the ideal place to display our new measurement system for use in wet gas stream processes."

Durag's Dr Kevin Bate concurred, adding: "Overall the event was very good for us. In terms of location and the workshops, the venue worked very well and the two presentations I gave were well attended."

Ashtead Technology was also delighted with their participation. Jay Neermul said: "MCERTS 2011 proved to be an ideal event at which to launch our new finance schemes, which help to improve access to the latest environmental monitoring instrumentation by spreading the costs."



Summary

In common with previous STA events, MCERTS 2011 provided an opportunity for the air and gas monitoring community to meet and catch up on the latest regulatory and technological issues. However, whilst the venue had to be changed at the last minute, the organisers have been delighted with the result, which provides an excellent opportunity for the event to evolve and grow – watch this space!