

MCerts 2009 to Focus on Operator Self-Monitoring

Presentations at the MCERTS 2009 Conference (29 and 30th April, at the Bretby Conference Centre near Burton on Trent) will focus on issues relating to the testing and monitoring of air quality in stack emissions, with particular emphasis on how Operator Self Monitoring (OSM) and MCERTS fit into the Environment Agency's 'Better Regulation' agenda.

High profile speakers from the Environment Agency, NPL, UKAS and AEAT will speak on subjects including emissions trading, the Environment Agency's Modern Regulation programme and its impact on monitoring, the role of MCERTS in delivering the programme and how, in 2010, EN14181 - Quality Assurance for an automated monitoring system, will operate under UKAS accreditation.

MCERTS 2009 will run over two days and adopt a similar format to previous events with an exhibition featuring almost all of the world's leading suppliers of monitoring equipment and services. The MCERTS Conference, which is repeated on both days, will provide the latest guidance on issues relating to legislation and monitoring standards, and a wide range of workshops will deliver practical help and advice on issues relating to the monitoring of emissions to air. Further information on the conference presentations and workshop titles is available at www.mcerts.uk.com.

2009 will see the fifth MCERTS event, all of which have been jointly organised with the Environment Agency of England and Wales, Environmental Technology Publications and the Source Testing Association (STA). Established in 1995, the STA is a non-profit making organisation with a corporate membership of over 200 companies from process operators, regulators, equipment suppliers and test laboratories.



Monitoring, reporting and verification

The Environment Agency's Rob Gemmill will speak at the MCERTS 2009 Conference, providing an update on implementation of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) in the UK, with particular emphasis on the requirements for monitoring, reporting and verification. This will include reference to some of the latest developments concerning aviation, carbon capture and storage (CCS) and the revised version of the EU ETS Directive that is due to take effect from 2013.

Rob will describe the tools that have been made available to assist those affected by the EU ETS. For example, web sites for quick and easy access to documents such as a guide to the EU Monitoring and Reporting Guidelines, standard forms, FAQs etc. These aids have been developed as part of a collaborative approach which has been important for promoting efficient and consistent delivery, and which is ultimately key to generating a level playing field.

Rob will include reference to the role and importance of independent verification of monitoring activities including the identification of any necessary improvements. He will explain that the Agency is looking for continuous improvement of monitoring plans, better preparation for verification, improved QA/QC procedures and prompt reporting.

Rod Robinson from NPL will also deliver a presentation at MCERTS 2009. He will review the requirements for monitoring under the current and proposed emissions trading schemes and assess the role that direct emission measurements will play in support of such schemes.

The Agency's John Tipping will describe how the Agency continually seeks to improve its regulatory activities by balancing a wide variety of different (and sometimes conflicting) needs to deliver risk based, cost-effective regulation. Environmental protection is the overall objective, but it is also important to avoid the imposition of an unnecessary burden on industry, so the Agency encourages process operators to take responsibility for their own performance and thereby engender trust in their relationship with the regulator.



From April 2008 the PPC and Waste Management Regulations were consolidated into the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) and OSM is a key feature of the new regime. Monitoring standards are specified within MCERTS and operator performance is now measured under the OPRA (Operational Risk Appraisal) and OMA (Operator Monitoring Assessment) schemes. John Tipping will also provide an update on the progress being made by these initiatives.

It is now over ten years since the Environment Agency launched its MCERTS scheme for Continuous Emission Monitors (CEMs). Since then, manufacturers have succeeded in achieving certification for dozens of types of CEMs, whilst the scheme has both evolved internationally and expanded in scope. The Agency's Rick Gould will examine the development of MCERTS in a presentation at the MCERTS 2009 Conference, outlining the impact of new international standards within the context of recent EC legislative developments.

Rick will explain why MCERTS is based on international and national standards, highlighting alignment and mutual recognition with the similar German scheme in 2001. He will then describe the development of the international standard EN 15267-3, which is based on the aligned MCERTS and German scheme. EN 15267-3 provides performance specifications and test procedures for automated stack emission measuring systems. MCERTS schemes for manual stack monitoring, portable emissions monitoring systems, and ambient air quality monitoring will also be discussed.

Additionally, Mike Woodfield from AEA Technology will present an examination of the new BS EN ISO 11771 standard 'Air Quality: Determination of time averaged mass emissions and emissions factors - general approach.' He will explain how this will improve the emissions data used to develop air pollution and climate change policies on a national and international level. The presentation will also cover how the new standard is likely to generate new business opportunities for stack testers.

Plan ahead for MCERTS 2009

Speaking on behalf of the MCERTS 2009 organisers, Marcus Pattison advised visitors, "The Conference presentations are repeated on both days so that visitors can make the most of the help and advice that will be available. Every visitor has an interest in testing and monitoring so most of the Conference presentations, many of the workshops and almost all of the exhibition stands are likely to be of interest – it is vitally important therefore, that visitors should allocate sufficient time to fully exploit the opportunities that will be available."

CONTACT DETAILS

Marcus Pattison
MCERTS organiser
Oak Court Business Centre
Sandridge Park,
Porters Wood,
St. Albans, Hertfordshire
AL3 6PH
ENGLAND
Tel: +44 (0) 1727 858840
Fax: +44 (0) 1727 840310
Email: info@mcerts.uk.com
Web: www.mcerts.uk.com