

AEA led consortium to reduce environmental impact of Oil and Gas operations in Central Asia

A consortium led by AEA has been selected by the European Commission's EuropeAid project to deliver improvements to the environmental impact of oil and gas activities in Central Asia – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The two year project, worth €2.6 million, is part of the important INOGATE programme which promotes co-operation between the EU and the Littoral States of the Black & Caspian Seas and their neighbouring countries. It will play a central role in achieving the wider objective of developing a sustainable and secure energy supply system between Europe and the Central Asian region.

Working in association with BSI British Standards and Sweco (a Swedish engineering and environmental consultancy) AEA will help to increase the efficiency of the oil and gas networks in the beneficiary countries and increase the level of environmental protection. The consortium will also contribute to improving capacity for access to European oil and gas markets.

One of the key objectives of the project will be to work in partnership with the EC in assisting governments in the region to improve their environmental legislation. Legislation has proven to be a key driver in improving environmental performance in the UK and EU. AEA's experience will be invaluable in applying their detailed knowledge to local situations.

The consortium will also help implement sustainable environment improvement projects with a view to attracting project finance from International Financial Institutions and oil and gas developers, and qualifying for the appropriate emissions trading schemes. Technical assistance will be given to help monitor and regulate the environmental impact of all operations from exploitation of resources to transport of hydrocarbons.

Jonathan Perks, Project Director, AEA, said:

“Energy security is one of the biggest issues facing European governments today. Working within the INOGATE programme we can fulfil a mutually beneficial role – helping Central Asian countries to protect their environment and improve access to European oil and gas markets, thus improving the security of Europe's energy supply.

“AEA's experience working on the Sakhalin II energy project, and with developing economies such as China puts it in an ideal position to carry out this work. We look forward to working with first rate partners BSI British Standards and Sweco, and to strengthening our relationships within Central Asia, and with the European Commission.”



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Notes to Editors:

AEA

AEA is one of the world's leaders in the field of climate change and energy consultancy - operating in the UK, Europe, the US and China. It is the leading provider of advisory services to the UK Government and works extensively with the EU and major private sector organisations. With internationally renowned expertise in air quality and climate change, carbon management, resource efficiency and the environmental impacts of transport, AEA employs many world leading experts and provides a high-level of policy consultancy and a range of technical services to its public and private sector clients.

Recently, AEA completed a six-year environmental audit assessment on one of the world's largest integrated oil & gas projects, Sakahlin II in Russia, it is the manager for the UK government's Envirowise project, one of the world's largest resource efficiency programmes and provides carbon management expertise to many of the UK's largest private sector organisations. It is also supporting BT in the roll out of its £250 million programme to develop wind power sites that aims to generate 25% of the Company's electricity generation needs by 2016.

In October 2007, AEA was voted by environmental consultancy customers across the UK, as Best Consultancy for Climate Change and Renewables at the prestigious EDIE Awards.

For further information please visit www.aeat.co.uk.

BSI British Standards

BSI British Standards is the UK's National Standards Body, recognized globally for its independence, integrity and innovation in the production of standards and information products that promote and share best practice. BSI works with businesses, consumers and government to represent UK interests and to make sure that British, European and international standards are useful, relevant and authoritative.

For further information please visit www.bsigroup.com/britishstandards.

BSI Group

BSI British Standards is part of BSI Group, a global independent business services organization that inspires confidence and delivers assurance to customers with standards-based solutions. Originating as the world's first national standards body, the Group has over 2,300 staff operating in over 120 countries through more than 50 global offices. The Group's key offerings are:

- The development and sale of private, national and international standards and supporting information
- Second and third-party management systems assessment and certification
- Product testing and certification of services and products
- Performance management software solutions
- Training services in support of standards implementation and business best practice.

For further information please visit www.bsigroup.com.

Sweco

Sweco is a provider of international consulting engineering services with combined expertise in engineering, environmental technology and architecture. The Group has annual sales of approximately SEK 4.6 billion and 5,400 employees in ten countries. The company has projects currently underway in some 80 countries worldwide. Sweco is a member of the OMX Nordic Exchange Stockholm.

For further information please visit www.swecogroup.com/en/Sweco-group

EuropeAid

The European Union, composed of the Member States and the European Commission, is the world's biggest aid donor. The Commission's EuropeAid co-operation office manages EU external aid programmes and ensures that development assistance is delivered worldwide.

EuropeAid's main mission is to implement the Commission's external aid instruments, both those funded by the Union's budget and the European Development Fund. The 'Who's who' section will tell you how EuropeAid is organised.

To ensure coherence, complementarity and coordination in implementing external assistance programmes worldwide, EuropeAid works in close collaboration with its various partners. The overall aim is to make external aid more effective. Civil society, international organisations and governments of EU Member States are all important actors in this field.

For further information please visit ec.europa.eu/europeaid/who/index_en.htm