



PRESS RELEASE

AEA Technology is awarded major UK Government contract worth £1.2 million

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AEA Technology plc, the leading energy and environmental consultancy, has been awarded a 14-month contract from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) worth £1.2m to take forward the initial set up of a new Expert Resource Centre (ERC) for Public Dialogue in Science and Innovation.

Sciencewise, run by AEA since 2006, is a Government programme which helps policy makers identify and carry out dialogue with the public in the early stages of science and technology policy development in order to help inform their decision making.

This new contract is the result of an announcement by the then Chancellor, Gordon Brown, in his pre-budget speech in December 2006, to create an expert resource in this area, responding to a call from the Council for Science and Technology to develop a corporate memory, and building on the successful work of Sciencewise.

The new Sciencewise - ERC will consist of an online information resource on public dialogue in science and technology, together with a range of supporting services including training, mentoring, and the development of policy maker and practitioner networks to build the necessary capacity to embed public dialogue in the policymaking process.

Recent years have seen a number of controversial science related issues such as GM foods, climate change and the national DNA database, which have generated widespread public debate.

As part of the contract, AEA will work across government departments and agencies to help identify the key emerging areas of science and technology and where public dialogue might be appropriate. AEA will assist policy makers commission external specialist contractors to carry out the dialogue process and build up the expert resource centre with guidance, examples and best practice.

Alan Mercer, Programme Director, AEA said: "As a leading environmental consultancy, science and technology is at the core of our business. The new Sciencewise-ERC will help policy makers involve the public more closely and consistently in complex or controversial areas of science and technology which affect us all."

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Notes to Editors:

AEA Technology is one of the world's leaders in the field of climate change, energy and behaviour change 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.

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 more information please go to www.aeat.com