The European Union Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) provides independent verification of the performance of environmental technologies, validating that the environmental performance claims put forward by technology developers and vendors are complete, fair and based on reliable test results.

ETV is intended for technologies with innovative features that cannot be fully assessed through certification or labels. Thanks to tailor-made evaluation parameters and high-quality test data, ETV enables companies to validate features that make their technology unique, thus enabling them to differentiate themselves from (larger) competitors, gain visibility on the market, and access international markets with credible data.

The programme is particularly supportive for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs): among companies presenting technologies to ETV, SMEs account for 90% and within this, micro-enterprises for 50%.

After more than three years of operation, the testing-phase of the EU-ETV scheme was completed in December 2016. The EU-ETV Pilot Programme is currently undergoing an evaluation to better understand if it is functioning as planned, both in terms of the verification infrastructure and the expected outcomes for innovators (such as new sales, faster and wider market access, credibility and visibility on the market).

In addition to assessing the performance of the Pilot Programme, the evaluation will also be used to explore synergies with other environmental policies, such as the European Clean Development Mechanism.

The European Commission wants to hear your view on the EU ETV Pilot Programme.

As part of the EU-ETV evaluation, a public consultation has been launched to collect opinions of stakeholders on the functioning of the ETV as well as on the future scope and direction of the scheme.

All stakeholders and citizens are welcome to contribute.

The consultation is available in 9 languages (CZ, DA, DE, EN, ES, FI, FR, IT and PL) on the European Commission's website. It will be open until 20 November 2017.
as Green Public Procurement and Public Procurement of Innovation; legislations based on technology performance; or with standards on for example, raw materials or remanufacturing.

On the basis of this evaluation, the European Commission will draw conclusions to decide on the best way forward.

As part of the evaluation, a formal and wide-ranging public consultation has been launched on 31 July 2017, following the dedicated Consultation Strategy. The public consultation is an opportunity for stakeholders to provide valuable insights on their awareness of the Pilot Programme, on how well it has worked, on the benefits and drawbacks of the ETV process, as well as on the future scope and direction of the scheme.

All citizens and stakeholders are welcome to contribute to this consultation. Technology developers, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), technology users and innovation experts are particularly encouraged to contribute.

The public consultation is available in nine languages (CZ, DA, DE, EN, ES, FI, FR, IT and PL) on the European Commission’s website. It will be open until 20 November 2017.

The conclusions from the public consultation and from the full evaluation study will be set out in a report, which is to be published in the first semester of 2018. The ETV Pilot Programme will continue to run during the evaluation.

Join the debate! [link to consultation]

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**3rd ETV Stakeholder Forum**

The 3rd Stakeholder Forum meeting took place in Brussels on 28 September 2017. The meeting gathered around 30 experts and stakeholders to discuss and exchange views on the early findings of the evaluation of the EU ETV Pilot Programme. The forum was a lively mix of plenary and parallel roundtable discussions.

The early results were presented by an independent consultant, Jonathan Lonsdale of ICF, who noted that the benefits of undertaking an EU ETV closely match the expectations of technology proposers. However, challenges remain with regard to financial support and internal human resources.

Other presenters included two technology developers with an ETV verification – Didier Lanquetin of Futuramat (France) and Nikolaj Larsen of Re-Match (Denmark) – who provided first-hand testimonies on their experiences with the scheme. Similarly, several Verification Bodies shared their views on the challenges related to the implementation of ETV.

An investor insight was given by Albert Fischer, Managing Director of Yellow & Blue Investment Management (The Netherlands), confirming the added value of ETV verification for new technologies:

*’The Statement of Verification is a solid starting point for investors’ due diligence, as it confirms independently that the products work. This shortens the time to build the investment case and thus leads to a swifter investment decision by investment funds.’*

The key aspects of the Programme were discussed in three breakout sessions, covering how to engage the relevant stakeholders (technology developers, end-users and purchasers) and how to create a sustainable EU-ETV delivery infrastructure. The aim was to obtain feedback from the delegates to support the evaluation of the EU ETV Pilot Programme, and to understand where there is need for improvement.

For a full agenda of the meeting, please [click here](https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/evaluation-environmental-technologies-verification-pilot-programme_en). The presentations from the forum are available on the [ETV website](https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/evaluation-environmental-technologies-verification-pilot-programme_en).
Recently verified technologies

AQUATRACK® by the Swedish company AQUA-Q AB is an innovative technology for real-time monitoring and sampling for pathogen detection in various types of water. The technology, verified by the Finnish Verification Body VTT Expert Services Ltd in the area of ‘Water Treatment and Monitoring’, is a fully automated and reliable device designed for 24/7 monitoring and sampling for pathogen detection in various types of water.

Mixergy tank is a hot water tank by Mixergy Limited that uses a novel inlet diffuser and angled heating element scheme to increase the utilisation of stored water within a domestic hot water tank. The inlet arrangement reduces the mixing of cold and hot water in order to increase the amount of hot water that can be recovered from a given preheated tank volume. The technology was verified by the UK Verification Body National Physical Laboratory (NPL) in the area of ‘Energy Technologies’.

BioKube Summerhouses Wastewater System by Biokube A/S is a technology that continuously nourishes the bacteria in wastewater systems during periods when there is no supply of wastewater to these systems, e.g. during the off-season (October – April) in summer cottages. The verification was performed in the area of ‘Water Treatment and Monitoring’ by the Danish Verification Body ETA-Danmark A/S.

Ultraaqua ACN series UV Disinfection systems by the Danish Company ULTRAQUA is a UV system designed to protect farmed fish from waterborne diseases transmitted by inlet water. The UV disinfection systems can also be applied to protect the surrounding environment, particularly wild fish, from pathogens in farmed fish. The verification focused on the disinfection of inlet water, since this is the most common application. The technology was verified by ETA Danmark A/S in cooperation with the Danish Centre for Verification of Climate and Environmental Technologies, DANETV, in the area of ‘Water Treatment and Monitoring’.

Sudhir Chowdhury, CEO of AQUA-Q AB, said about the benefits of EU-ETV:

“We think that this verification will strengthen our marketing efforts. It is helpful that an independent institute as well as the EU have verified that our innovation, AQUATRACK®, does what we claim. It is also the first time that an early warning system for both drinking and reclaimed water has been verified. This will provide consumer safety and better quality control for utilities and water industries.’

BioKube Summerhouses Wastewater System by Biokube A/S is a technology that continuously nourishes the bacteria in wastewater systems during periods when there is no supply of wastewater to
PVStop by Solar Developments Pty Ltd, verified by the UK Verification Body BRE Global in the area of ‘Energy Technologies’, is a black sprayable/rollable/brushable water-based polymer. The application of PVStop to PV modules will restrict light from reaching the PV cells thereby reducing the PV system’s ability to generate electricity. This reduces the risk of electric shock through direct or indirect contact with PV modules.

The performance parameters verified were the bio-based carbon content of the formulations and the mass percentage of hazardous substances, as included in REACH Annex XIV or the Candidate list. The verifications were done in the area of ‘Materials, Waste and Resources’.

Four bio-based compounds developed by FuturaMat (AU-LXX-06, BioFibra BF-LED-10, BioMine BM-LMI-03, and PolyFibra PF-PEF-04) have been verified by the French Verification Body, RESCOLL.

The Re-Match artificial turf recycling, developed by the Danish company Re-Match, is mechanical separation process that makes it possible to clean and recycle old artificial turf. The resulting granulated grass fibres and the infill (sand and rubber) are re-used within a host of other applications and industries. The verification was performed in the area of ‘Materials, Waste and Resources’ by the Danish Verification Body ETA Danmark A/S.

View all verifications on the ETV website.
ETV presented at the 8th edition of the National Eco-Enterprises Forum

The 8th edition of the National Eco-Enterprises Forum (Forum national des éco-entreprises) took place on 30 March in Paris at the French Ministry for Economy and Finance. An ETV workshop was organised alongside the event by Pierre Kerdoncuff from the French Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME) and Sandrine Ausset from the French Verification Body RESCOLL. In addition, the Forum provided an opportunity to meet innovative French companies and raise their awareness of the ETV scheme and how it can be used to differentiate between competitors.

ETV4Water project – facilitating the use of ETV in the water sector

Innovations can play an important role in addressing the challenge of municipal energy use at water and wastewater treatment facilities. However, lack of relevant evidence confirming the performance of innovative technologies as well as public procurement rules often impede the market entrance of innovations.

To address these challenges, a 3-month project was launched in August by the Polish ETV Verification Body IETU, in cooperation with Gdańsk Water Foundation, Poland and Aquateam COWI, Norway.

The overall objective of this project was to facilitate the use of ETV to increase energy efficiency at municipal wastewater treatment plants in Norway and Poland. The project aimed at increasing awareness and market recognition of ETV and provided practical assistance to SMEs and procurers. In addition to this, the project’s aims included the establishment of a network of test bodies from the two countries, capable of delivering credible test data on the performance of energy-efficient water technologies.

ETV “the right fit” for new PV module safety product

The recent verification by BRE Global of PV module safety product, PVStop, exemplifies how the EU-ETV scheme helps new products gain acceptance from regulators and the market.

PVStop addresses an important safety issue affecting Photovoltaic (PV) systems. PV modules cannot be easily switched off while they are exposed to light. In an emergency situation, such as a fire, flood or storm, the modules may continue to produce potentially lethal amounts of DC electricity.

PVStop, developed by the Australian-based company Solar Developments, blocks the supply of light to the PV modules by acting as a ‘liquid tarpaulin’ – applied by spraying, rolling or brushing – which immediately begins to de-energise the system.

“It is a state-of-the-art water-based, polymer film technology,” says Solar Developments Director Jim Foran, “which is non-flammable, fire-retardant, non-conductive and anti-arcing. It dries quickly to form...
a waterproof coating that causes no damage to the PV modules. When you want to re-activate the system you simply peel it off and dispose of it with normal garbage waste.”

Having developed the product, the question facing the company was how to prove its effectiveness to potential customers and gain market acceptance.

“The verification process was of absolute critical importance in the development of PVStop, given that our technology is unique and we are relatively unknown to the fire and rescue community,” says Foran. “With no standard, industry recognised testing, we were struggling to find a partner with the capabilities to conduct an independent testing programme and that would be credible in the eyes of the world’s fire and emergency services. We had scoured the world before finding the right fit with BRE Global and the EU-ETV scheme.”

Solar Developments is the first company to receive a Statement of Verification (published 6 September 2017) from BRE Global as part of the EU-ETV pilot programme. The BRE National Solar Centre and the London Fire Brigade helped in developing and carrying out the rigorous test program that validated the performance of PVStop, under the Energy Technologies area of the EU-ETV pilot scheme.

Watch here a video discussion of the verification of PVStop

For more information on the BRE Global ETV scheme please visit the website [here](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecoap/etv), and for more on PVStop visit [here](#).

Info corner

For questions related to the ETV pilot programme, Verification Bodies or the Stakeholder Forum

ENV-ETV@ec.europa.eu

For technical questions on the work of the Verification Bodies and the process of verification of technologies

JRC-PTT-ETV@ec.europa.eu

For detailed information on the EU-ETV pilot programme, phrases, protocol, upcoming events and news access the ETV website:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/ecoap/etv

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