

## Can we trust energy labels?

*The results of the ATLETE project, focused on testing the values stated on energy labels on 80 types of refrigerators and freezers on sale in the European Union, have been made public in Brussels.*

Four selected laboratories tested some 80 appliances from 40 producers available for purchase across the European Union. The project randomly selected 80 models among refrigerators, freezers and refrigerator-freezers for testing. All the manufacturers whose products were selected had in January 2010 a share of the EU market of at least 0.1%.

The project's purpose was to verify whether the information stated on the energy labels was actually true. Each appliance was tested according to five parameters (energy consumption; storage temperature, including the climate class; storage volume; freezing capacity and temperature rise time). Two of these parameters (freezing capacity and temperature rise time) have been less commonly checked since energy labels were introduced in 1995.

If the declared values were found to be within the accepted testing tolerances, the product was deemed to be compliant. If not, a second round of testing was undertaken. In this second round, three more units of the same model were purchased and tested, this time applying stricter tolerance thresholds. The tolerance thresholds for [» cont. » page 5](#)



## EPBD Recast – Directive 2010/31/EU

*In May 2010, the European Commission and Council adopted the EPBD Recast (Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, 2010/31/EU), which means that the EU member states are obliged to implement the new requirements in their national legislations.*

At the present time, task forces are participating in the preparation of the amendments to the respective Czech legislation so as to meet the obligation to implement the recast EPBD in time. The endeavour is for the task forces to reach consensus and unify their results and recommendations, which would result in a joint proposal of theirs that will pave the way for

the amendment to Regulation 148/2007 Coll., on energy performance of buildings, including the necessary changes to the related documents, primarily Act 406/2000 Coll., on energy management. The European Directive contains, among other things, several significant dates that are binding for the EU member states. [» cont. » page 5](#)

## EFFICIENT BIOGAS UTILISATION – A PRECONDITION FOR PUBLIC SUPPORT OF FUTURE BIOGAS STATION PROJECTS?

*The projects receiving awards within the renowned “Energy and Environmental Project of 2009” competition included the implementation of a biogas station in Třeboň. The project is unique in that it utilises the energy in the obtained biogas much more efficiently than is usual.*

This is possible owing to a gas conduit through which the bulk of the produced biogas is transported from the station (approximately 3 kilometres north of the town of Třeboň) to the Aurora spa complex, where a new cogeneration unit transforms it into electricity and heat with a high degree of utilisation.

Efficient use of heat from biogas cogeneration can serve to help meet the Czech Republic's commitment to achieve by 2020 a 13% share of renewable sources in gross final consumption. In the case that by 2020 several hundreds of other projects utilising biogas stations with the total electric output of at least 300 MW are implemented, as the National Action Plan for Development of Renewable Energy Sources counts with, they possess the utilisable heat potential of almost 2 TWh, or some 6.5 PJ a year. This would represent approximately one fifth of the total expected growth in heat produced from RES as against the present time. When it comes to individual projects, a single implementation of a biogas

station can cover the heat requirements of several hundred family houses.

Another method of maximising the available potential of biogas is converting it into biomethane that could be supplied to the natural gas [» cont. » page 4](#)

### inside:

- 2 *New labelling of electrical appliances*
- 2 *Energy savings in IT*
- 3 *Energy saving in buildings in the newly independent states in Eastern Europe and Central Asia*
- 3 *EEBW '2010*
- 3 *Green Public Procurement*
- 4 *Thermal insulation of apartment houses in Macedonia*
- 4 *Survey of public lighting in the Czech Republic and Public Lighting Manual*
- 5 *Energy-efficient lighting in households*
- 6 *EPC support in the Czech Republic*
- 6 *Competition for the best preparer of projects using the EPC method*



Energy and Environmental Project of 2009 – the biogas station in Třeboň

# New labelling of electrical appliances

*Energy labels make it possible for those interested in purchasing electrical appliances to receive lucid information at the point of sale about individual models' energy efficiency and other parameters. Accordingly, they provide simple comparison of the operational consumption of different appliances.*

Energy labels are thus an effective tool for increasing the energy efficiency of the appliances on the market, and owing to this the overwhelming majority of labelled appliances are currently in the top energy class. As a result, the labels have however ceased fulfilling their function of distinguishing between better and worse appliances in terms of service energy consumption.

This is one of the reasons why in May 2010 new legislation on energy labelling of appliances was adopted. The content and visual changes in energy labels and other (new) requirements pertaining to their presentation should contribute to energy labels continuing to be an efficient tool for increasing the energy efficiency of appliances, as has been the case to date.

## What are the main changes brought about by the new legislation on energy labelling?

### ■ Energy labelling of TV sets

From the end of November 2011, there will have to be labels on TV sets.

### ■ The possibility of introducing classes A+, A++, A+++

These energy classes can be introduced in the case that the technology progresses to such an extent that the original A – G scale is no longer sufficient. At the present time, class A++ is applied with refrigerators, freezers and their combinations.

### ■ The scale only has 7 classes

In the majority of cases, the scale on the label only has 7 energy classes. If, for example, class A++ is stated, the scale finishes with the letter E (A++ to E) instead of the original G. The upper arrow (class) must be designated in green and the bottom arrow in red.

### ■ New measurement methodology better corresponding to the real use of the appliance

The calculation of the energy efficiency index, which serves as the basis for energy class classification,

is now closer to the real conditions of use of the appliance in a household. For example, a washing machine's electric energy consumption now includes washing at the temperature of 40° C and with half-load. The previous methodology only counted with the washing cycle at 60° C.

### ■ New information on labels

When it comes to washing machines and dish-washers, the label does not contain the efficiency class of washing since these values are not relevant (all washing machines and dish-washers are of class A). Instead of energy and water consumption per washing cycle, the labels now provide information about energy and water consumption over the whole year.

### ■ The label is neutral in language terms

Labels throughout the European Union now have the same appearance (the original labels included texts in national languages).

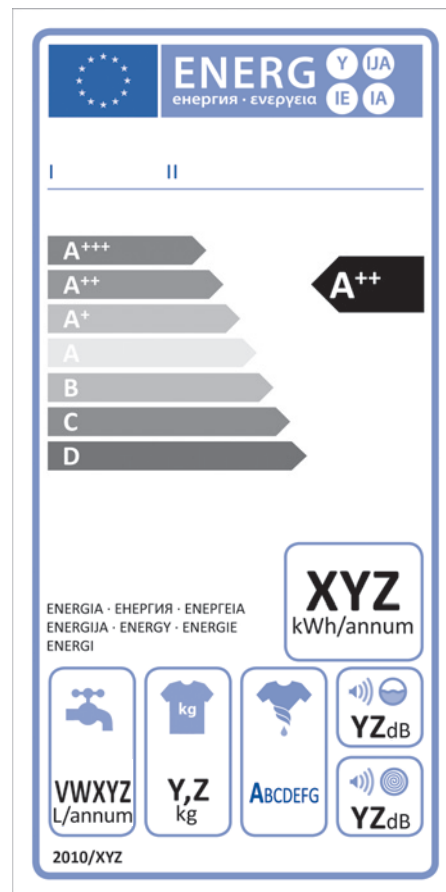
### ■ Labels in internet shops too

The information stated on the label must be part of the information provided when selling electrical appliances on the internet, in the case of mail order and catalogue sales.

### ■ Energy classes included in advertising

The obligation to give the energy class in advertisements and other promotional materials stating the price and/or consumption of electrical appliances. (Note: this provision will come into force in May 2012.)

It is important that the aforementioned changes only pertain to those appliances for which the respective implementing regulation has already been adopted. In the spring of 2011, these included cooling appliances for households (refrigerators, freezers and their combinations), washing machines, dish-washers and television sets. When it comes to other appliances to which energy labelling is applied, the original system



will remain valid until such time as the respective implementing regulation is adopted (comes into force). New labels (for the aforementioned appliances) will be obligatory for newly sold products from 30 November 2011 and 19 December 2011, depending on the specific appliance. Until that time, new labels can be used voluntarily.

More information about the changes in energy labelling can be found in the new publication "Energy labelling of electrical appliances. A complete summary for all categories of household electrical appliances", available for free downloading at <http://www.usporiespotrebice.cz/novinky/nove-stitky/> (in Czech). -mv-

## Energy savings in IT

*Owing to the dynamic development in the field of information technologies and the ever-growing use of IT services in the private and public sectors, the time is ripe to identify the potential for savings in data centres, hosting centres, etc. European and American studies have revealed a significant growth in energy consumption on the part of IT facilities (e.g. data centres...), estimating their electric power consumption as being 40 TWh/year. By 2012 this consumption is expected to have increased to 80 TWh/year. The saving potential afforded by the implementation of energy-efficient technologies is estimated at 60 %.*

That is one of the reasons why a number of initiatives focused on classification and evaluation of the energy intensity of data and server-housing centres and the individual tools used in them (e.g. servers) have emerged in Europe and the USA with the aim to allow for their comparison and identify good practice examples for possible replication.

The saving potential rests not only in a centre's efficient construction design and the method of cooling but also in the area of hardware and software,

i.e. the IT itself. When it comes to hardware, it is possible to use new types of processors, hard disks and feeding units whose energy requirements can be manifold lower than those of the current ones. In the case of software solutions, it is possible to use "virtualisation", owing to which the operation of several servers can be concentrated in a single physical server, which could result in significant reduction of electricity consumption during idle mode.

According to the Uptime Institute ([www.uptimein-](http://www.uptimeinstitute.org)

[www.uptimeinstitute.org](http://www.uptimeinstitute.org)), in the case of a typical centre the power usage efficiency (PUE) indicator shows the value of approximately 2.5, whereas when applying the best available technology the value is 1.6. The most efficient centres, those applying the possibilities of alternative cooling methods and the best available technology, reduce the additional necessity for service technologies to several dozen watts as compared with the ordinary centres.

Savings in the area of central IT are dealt with by the European PrimeEnergyIT project, part of the "Intelligent Energy – Europe" programme. Energy-saving technologies are already available and their development continues apace, yet it is necessary to boost demand for these technologies. The new knowledge and solution methods should be particularly promoted among specialists dealing with this issue, as well as the employees managing and operating central IT and, of course, investors, who ultimately decide about the appearance of data/housing centres. These are the main objectives of the project and its outputs.

For more information, visit <http://www.efficient-datacenter.eu>

Petr Chmel, [petr.chmel@svn.cz](mailto:petr.chmel@svn.cz)

# ENERGY SAVING IN BUILDINGS IN THE NEWLY INDEPENDENT STATES IN EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

SEVEN organised a seminar on certification of energy performance of buildings and labelling of electrical appliances that took place in Kiev, Ukraine, on 18 and 19 January 2011. The two-day event addressed state administration, local government and the professional public in the INOGATE countries. The seminar was held within the Energy Saving Initiative in the Building Sector in Eastern Europe and Central Asia project invited by the agency EuropeAid. It was attended by 90 participants from the majority of the newly independent states in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

The aim of the seminar was to demonstrate the potential of a market tool – marketing information about the energy performance of buildings and the energy class of appliances – to serve as a supplement

to setting compulsory standards and possible financial support in implementation of economic energy savings. A large part of the presentations and discussion was devoted to practical aspects of implementing this mechanism in the public administration sphere. Within the project, SEVEN will further focus on the transformation of the forms of ownership of apartment houses in a manner allowing for the creation of the preconditions for effective decision-making mechanisms and confidence in financial institutions. Together with the frequently subsidised energy price, it is the greatest barrier to the implementation of energy efficient modernisation of the housing stock in these countries.

Contact: [juraj.krivosik@svn.cz](mailto:juraj.krivosik@svn.cz)

-pb-



Seminar on certification of energy performance of buildings and labelling of electrical appliances.

# EEBW '2010

From 23 to 25 November 2010 the 12th edition of the EEBW: Energy Efficiency Business Week international conference took place in Prague. SEVEN has organised the forum since 1992. The approximately 130 conference participants had the opportunity to listen to the opinions of and information provided by the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Ministry of the Environment, the Senate of the Czech



Republic, the Energy Regulatory Office, ČEZ, the Municipality of the City of Prague and other Czech and foreign representatives and specialists in energy saving and renewable energy sources. The main topics discussed included the highly topical issues of regulation and price setting of solar power stations, the possibilities of energy services with a guarantee and the energy performance of buildings. More information can be found on [www.eebw.cz](http://www.eebw.cz)

-jk-

# GREEN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Green Public Procurement (GPP) is a manner of purchasing in which requirements for environmental impact reduction are applied when selecting products and services. The main benefits of implementing public procurements in this way include energy savings and the consequent reduction of pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions. Savings of energy, water and materials automatically manifest themselves in lower operating costs and often result in the economic advantageousness of a green procurement.



Pursuant to Government Decree No. 683/2002, information and communication technologies for public administration should be purchased through an “e-market”. The aim of this measure is to attain transparent public procurement at the lowest possible price. Moreover, Government Decree No. 465/2010, on the rules of applying environmental requirements in public procurement and purchases in public administration and local governments, approved, among other things, a methodology for purchasing office computing technology, contained in material Ref. No. 1698/09, and prescribes its use for public procurement ([www.zelenenakupovani.cz](http://www.zelenenakupovani.cz), in Czech), including for the “e-market” environment. Within Government Decree No. 465/2010, by 31 December 2011 the Ministry of the Environment should prepare for consideration “methodologies” for purchasing of other products, specifically food and catering services, transport and transport services, clothing, uniforms and other textiles, paper and printing services, cleaning products and services.

At the present time, the Ministry of the Environment is working on the preparation of a manual – practical instructions for application of the aforementioned methodology for selection of office computing technology and related products. The manual deals with the criteria which the respective products must meet, their verification and the existing certification of individual products.

Besides cooperating on the above mentioned manual, another of SEVEN's activities in this area is supporting the implementation of green procurements on the part of both public and private institutions within the European Commission's Buysmart project. Those interested in free consultancy pertaining to the implementation of green purchasing, further information and being sent a newsletter about the project can turn to the contacts listed below.

More information: Jana Szomolányiová at [jana.szomolanyiova@svn.cz](mailto:jana.szomolanyiova@svn.cz), and on the websites [www.mzp.cz/cz/pravidla\\_zelenych\\_zakazek](http://www.mzp.cz/cz/pravidla_zelenych_zakazek) (in Czech) and <http://www.buy-smart.info/>.

-pcb-js-



## « EFFICIENT BIOGAS..., cont.

distribution network. This type of solution is more suitable for large projects (ideally 1 MWe and more) yet to date has not been carried out in the Czech Republic due to lack of public support. Production of biomethane allows for efficient use of more than 60% of the initial energy in biogas, which makes it commensurate to the solution whereby heat from cogeneration is efficiently used for (raw) biogas. In the future, greater public support should motivate investors to make highly efficient use of energy from biogas.

The exemplary conception of the project in Třeboň was the reason why SEVEN decided to help the investor with the project's fruition as one of the significant subcontractors. SEVEN's objective is to aid the implementation of other similar projects, including within the European CHP Goes Green scheme. At the start of the year, a biogas station with two dislocated cogeneration units using biogas in district heating systems was placed into operation in Přestice. Several other projects in which SEVEN participates in various manners are now under preparation or in the evaluation phase.

Bohuslav Málek, bohuslav.malek@svn.cz  
Tomáš Voříšek, tomas.vorisek@svn.cz

## THERMAL INSULATION OF APARTMENT HOUSES IN MACEDONIA

The objective of the project, financed through USAID, is to demonstrate that investments in energy-saving measures in apartment buildings can result in significant reduction of energy costs.

Three houses, mainly occupied by low-income families, have been selected within the project. A detailed energy audit was carried out and energy-saving measures proposed. The following solutions were chosen:

- Repair and insulation of a flat or saddle roof and terrace,
- Insulation of all facades,
- Repair and sealing of windows,
- Replacement of front doors,
- Repair of lightning in common spaces, and
- Delivery of 3 compact fluorescent lamps to each family.

SEVEN's main task was to draw up the energy audits and propose the methodology of monitoring and evaluating savings. Moreover, the company selected the buildings, chose the measures to be implemented and assessed the offers made by suppliers. Other partners provided technical support during the carrying out of audits and the building's surveying, a sociological survey and prepared contractual matters with the representatives of the houses' proprietors.

The project was launched in December 2009 with selection of the buildings, in February 2010 the energy audits were completed and subsequently the public tender submission was prepared and the contractor selected. The construction itself commenced in July and all the measures (with the exception of the terrace's insulation) were completed in September 2010. At the present time, the implemented measures are being monitored. The results will be evaluated at the end of the heating season (in the spring of 2011).

Bohuslav Málek, bohuslav.malek@svn.cz



# Survey of public lighting in the Czech Republic and Public Lighting Manual

In 2010, SEVEN, The Energy Efficiency Centre, o.p.s., as an independent organisation providing consultancy on energy savings, with support from the companies ČEZ, a.s. and Philips Czech Republic, s.r.o., carried out a survey of public lighting among cities and municipalities in the Czech Republic. The aim of the survey was to ascertain the situation regarding public lighting and the trends over the past few years.

The survey was focused on acquiring the basic data about public lighting. The information evaluated included organisation of maintenance, costs for maintenance and electric energy, technical data (number and type of lighting fixtures and light sources, the system's regulation, audits) and other information (e.g. the degree of using architectural lighting).

Some 350 cities and municipalities in the Czech Republic (from small villages to the cities of Hradec Králové and Ostrava) participated in the survey. The most noteworthy among the many interesting findings are the predominant use of high-pressure sodium discharge lamps (emitting the typical yellow light) and the currently totally marginal application of mercury discharge lamps, which are only used in very old installations. More than 85% of all light sources is formed by three output series of discharge lamps, 70, 100 and 150 W. According to the survey, the average consumption of one luminous spot in 2009 was approximately 500 kWh, with this value showing a very slight decrease when compared to the previous three years. On the other hand, average electric energy costs have been growing (in 2009 they were about CZK 1,300 per luminous spot). The survey also revealed that more than half the towns and municipalities possessed a valid audit report and passport. The majority of the municipalities hire external contractors to maintain public lighting.

The project also entailed drawing up a manual of public lighting that lucidly explains the basic aspects of public lighting. The manual is intended for public administration employees who are responsible for public lighting, as well as mayors and other officials of municipal authorities. The purpose of the publi-

cation is to acquaint non-professionals in this area with the major aspects of public lighting, its basic conceptions and, above all, to provide information about the possibilities of maintenance, energy and cost savings and draw attention to the technical, legislative and organisational problems pertaining to public lighting. The partners of the project provided significant know-how for the manual. Specialist proofing was carried out by the Department of



Electric Power Engineering of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering of the Czech Technical University in Prague. The publication can be downloaded for free from the project's website [www.vyzkumvo.cz](http://www.vyzkumvo.cz) (in Czech), where you can also find further information relating to public lighting.

Michal Staša, michal.stasa@svn.cz



## « EPBD RECAST – DIRECTIVE 2010/31/EU, cont.

One of the most relevant is the obligation to implement the recast EPBD, i.e. the obligation to adopt and make public the respective amended legal and administrative regulations, by 9 July 2012. At the present time, this formidable task is being worked on at a specialist technical level within the mentioned teams. Especially time-consuming will be the approval procedure of the amendment to Act 406/2000 Coll.

Other crucial deadlines include the obligation to construct zero net energy buildings from 31 December 2018 in the case of buildings used and owned by public administration bodies, from 31 December 2020 in the case of other buildings.

The respective working groups are preparing the specific definition of a building with zero net energy consumption. It is certain that besides very low energy intensity (i.e. not only low consumption of heat for heating) the building will have to use renewable energy sources to a significant extent, thus minimising the primary energy consumption. And it is also certain that the instantaneous transition to zero net energy buildings in 2018 and 2020 respectively would mean an immense shock for the entire construction market. Therefore, the task forces are devising a solution that would get the builders ready for zero net energy houses within one or several gradual steps.

In addition to the mentioned deadlines, the recast EPBD has introduced cost optimal building design. Accordingly, the minimum requirements for energy performance of buildings and elements of buildings will be checked in economic terms too. The European Commission has stated that the groundwork for the calculation of cost optimal design (the comparative methodological framework) be completed by 30

June 2011. Member states are then obliged to submit the results of their calculations by 30 June 2012. In the Czech Republic, this will be within the competence of the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

Apart from the compulsory implementation of the amended EPBD, it is also necessary during the preparation of the new version of the regulation on energy performance of buildings to correct the deficiencies that have been ascertained over the several years of experience with drawing up energy performance certificates of buildings. These certificates will have to primarily include the fixed determination of reference energy intensity values, which will decide about the inclusion of a building in the respective class, A to G, depending on the type of building. This system has numerous shortcomings. According to the new regulation, the reference value will be calculated for each specific building separately by means of defined standardised reference input values. At the same time, individual classes will be abolished and a colour scale introduced instead. Connected with this is also a significant change in the appearance of the certificate's graphic component.

Moreover, the obligation to draw up the certificates will be redefined. The new rule prescribes that they must also be made when buildings are sold and leased. In the case of public buildings, the limit value for drawing up and displaying the energy performance certificate in a visible place will be the floor area of 500 sq m. From 9 July 2015, this value will be further reduced to 250 sq m. Other changes arising from the recast EPBD pertain to inspections of boilers and air-conditioning.

Petr Zahradník, petr.zahradnik@svn.cz

## « CAN WE TRUST ENERGY LABELS?, cont.

Step I (1 appliance) are 15% in the case of energy consumption, freezing capacity and temperature rise time, and 3% (or one litre, while the higher of the declared values is taken into consideration) when it comes to storage volume. In Step II of the testing (3 appliances), the tolerance for the first three parameters is reduced to 10%, while the value for storage volume remains unchanged.

Two thirds of the models selected (54 out of 80) were from producers that had decided to co-operate with the project by signing a "voluntary protocol". Under this protocol, the producer could agree to accept the test results at the Step I stage, if they suggested a case of suspected non-compliance, and could consider taking the appropriate remedy actions for any case of non-compliance. All the producers were invited to sign the protocol before their product was selected for testing.

The test results (now available at [www.atlete.eu](http://www.atlete.eu)) suggest that a higher level of market surveillance is needed to ensure a higher level of product compliance with the overall energy label requirements. A total of 84% of appliances subjected to testing and for which testing has been concluded complied with the energy efficiency class declaration and the two related key parameters: energy consumption and storage volume. When all five parameters are taken into consideration, the rate of compliance declines to 47%.

Of the tested appliances, 10 are available for purchase in the Czech Republic. Three of these appliances complied in all parameters tested, five failed to comply with one and more parameters, while in the case of one product the test could not be completed

since the compulsory other three units of the model were not found. One product is still being tested and the results will be published at a later date.

The unique ATLETE project served to demonstrate that surveillance of the European market is necessary, can be carried out and achieved. According to the project's co-ordinator, Andrea Ricci, the current level of market surveillance for appliance energy labelling in most European Union member states is too low. The positive experience of this project should thus serve to support efforts for a greater level of market surveillance activity from the national authorities. This is indeed necessary, since the ATLETE project's results suggest that without market surveillance the level of compliance of products on the market suffers.

The ATLETE project, which lasted from June 2009 to May 2011, brought together five partners that have an interest in the issue of rational energy use and energy saving: ADEME, CECED, ENEA, ISIS and SEVen. The project received 75% of its financing from the EC's Intelligent Energy Europe Programme.

Juraj Krivošík, juraj.krivosik@svn.cz



## ENERGY-EFFICIENT LIGHTING IN HOUSEHOLDS

Lighting makes up a considerable proportion of a household's overall electric energy consumption. When discounting energy for heating and hot water, it can amount to up to 15%. Yet, at the same time, lighting represents a relatively simple and fast way of reducing energy consumption and thereby household expenses.

A traditional light bulb converts 92% of the electric energy into heat and merely 8% into light. Today, however, there is a sufficient amount of suitable efficient replacements for bulbs, which can be very easily replaced with more energy-efficient sources that are more environmentally sound, as well as more economical.

The publication "Energy-saving lighting in households. Practical information, advice and tips." (in Czech) responds to the public discussion initiated by the "ban on traditional light bulbs". In the publication the reader will find answers to the most frequently asked questions. It also aims to clarify the ambiguities that accompanied and still accompany the ban.

The publication contains an overview of

- what the ban on traditional light bulbs actually means;
- suitable energy-efficient, high-quality and economical alternatives to the traditional light bulb,
- how to select energy-saving lighting, also with regard to its placement in the household;
- what to do when a lighting source has come to the end of its service life;
- answers to the questions customers most frequently ask in this respect.

The publication originated in co-operation with the utility Pražská energetika, a. s., the magazine Světlo and the company Ekolamp s.r.o., and with financial support from the Ministry of Industry and Trade within the State Programme for Support of Energy Savings Efekt 2010.

Free copies of the publication are available at SEVen, The Energy Efficiency Centre, o.p.s., Americká 17, Praha 2, or for download at <http://www.uspornospotrebnice.cz/novinky/publikace-osvetleni/> (in Czech). -mv-



# EPC support in the Czech Republic

*The Energy Performance Contracting (EPC) method was introduced in the Czech Republic back at the beginning of the 1990s. To date, its development has been mainly initiated "from the bottom up" – owing to the activities of energy services companies and specialised firms acting on the behalf of customers. In recent times, however, the EPC method has gained ever-increasing support from ministries, at the EU level and even from the media.*

At the present time, four international projects supported by the European Commission and promoting the development of the EPC method and the energy services market are under way in the Czech Republic. The EESI (European Energy Service Initiative) project directly supports the origination of new projects applying EPC. The international **ChangeBest** project aims to advance the development of the energy services market in individual EU states. The third project, **Permanent**, focuses on measurement and verification of energy savings. The first two projects are being implemented in the Czech Republic by SEVEN, while the company ENVIROS is responsible for the third project.

The energy services topic is arched over by **Concerted Action**. The project, whose partner for the Czech Republic is the State Energy Inspection, aims to aid the correct implementation of the European Union's Energy Services Directive (by the end of June 2011, every EU member state must submit the second national energy efficiency action plan, which should specify the measures that would result in the set objective of 9% energy savings by 2016.)

In addition to the mentioned activities, this year the **European Energy Services Awards** will be announced for the sixth time. They are divided into three categories – the Best European Energy Service Promoter, the Best European Energy Service Provider and the Best European Energy Service Project. In the past, Czech projects and companies have received these prestigious awards: in 2005 SEVEN was voted the best European energy service promoter, in 2008 the Marriott

Hotel in Prague had the best lighting project, in 2010 Siemens received an award for its Mohelnice Electric Motors project, while ENESA was voted the best European energy service provider.

At the national level, in 2010 the Ministry of the Environment supported within the programme of environmental training, education and edification a long-term project aimed at promotion and media publicity of the EPC method as an efficient tool leading to energy savings in the public sector. Possible support for application of EPC is also being considered by the Ministry of Industry and Trade within the EFEKT programme.

Moreover, in the spring of 2011 a series of seminars on the topic "Improving the energy performance of buildings through the EPC method" is taking place. The seminars are being held from March to June in selected cities and towns throughout the Czech Republic. More detailed information about the venues and dates of the seminars can be found at [www.uspory-se-zarukou.cz](http://www.uspory-se-zarukou.cz). This year, the EPC method is also dealt with on the specialist TZB-info portal ([www.tzb-info.cz/epc-energy-performance-contracting](http://www.tzb-info.cz/epc-energy-performance-contracting)).

It would appear that perhaps the time has come to voice the cautiously optimistic assertion that after almost 20 years the EPC method, one of the most efficient energy saving tools there is, is finally being paid the attention it deserves. We can thus hope that this attention will enhance the development of energy services and increase the number of planned and implemented projects applying the EPC method.

Vladimír Sochor,  
[vladimir.sochor@svn.cz](mailto:vladimir.sochor@svn.cz)

## COMPETITION for the best preparer of projects using the EPC method

A competition for the best preparer of Energy Performance Contracting projects has been announced for 2011.

The competition has been organised by SEVEN, o.p.s. and ENVIROS, s.r.o. with support from Siemens s.r.o. It pertains to initiators of projects applying the EPC method who during the course of 2011 begin preparing such a project for their buildings, or announce the prepared project in the form of a public tender (e.g. in the form of announcement of tender within the Public Tender Information System).

For details about the competition's conditions and other information, visit [www.epc-ec.cz](http://www.epc-ec.cz) (in Czech).

The deadline for registration in the competition is 14 October 2011. Winners of individual categories will receive special prizes. The contact person for acceptance of applications and provision of information is Vladimír Sochor ([vladimir.sochor@svn.cz](mailto:vladimir.sochor@svn.cz)).

**The deadline  
for registration in  
the competition is  
14 October 2011.**

### EPC – on TZB-info.cz

In 2011 the TZB-info specialist portal is paying enhanced attention to the EPC method. The specially created internet pages already provide plenty of information and even more will be added during the course of the year. They can be found at the well known address [www.tzb-info.cz](http://www.tzb-info.cz) or directly on [www.tzb-info.cz/epc-energy-performance-contracting](http://www.tzb-info.cz/epc-energy-performance-contracting) (both in Czech).



**tzbinfo**  
[www.tzb-info.cz](http://www.tzb-info.cz)



News at SEVEN is produced in English and Czech by SEVEN, The Energy Efficiency Center. SEVEN strives to promote energy efficiency in order to support economic development and protect the environment. The newsletter informs about current energy efficiency events and developments in the Czech Republic and welcomes outside submissions. Printed on recycled paper. SEVEN is located at Americká 17, 120 00 Praha 2, Czech Republic. Editor: Juraj Krivosík ([juraj.krivosik@svn.cz](mailto:juraj.krivosik@svn.cz)), Michaela Valentová ([michaela.valentova@svn.cz](mailto:michaela.valentova@svn.cz)). Phone: + 420 224 252 115, + 420 224 247 552, fax: + 420 224 247 597, e-mail: [seven@svn.cz](mailto:seven@svn.cz), internet: [www.svn.cz](http://www.svn.cz). Podávání novinových zásilek povoleno Českou poštou, s.p., odštěpný závod Přeprava, čj. 1009/96, dne 13. 3. 1996. ISSN 1213 - 5844. Graphic design Pavel Cindr.



The Prague office of SEVEN is using PREKO electricity tariff, contributing to the development of renewable energy sources.



SEVEN is a holder of the ČSN EN ISO 9001:2009 and ČSN EN ISO 14001:2005 certificates approved by Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance.