

The Nordtest ETV scheme

An outline

For innovative technologies, the innovative element can itself be a barrier for acceptance in the market. The potential buyers may be cautious with new, unproven solutions, the authorities can find it hard to approve their use, and the vendor may find it difficult to substantiate their claims on superior performance of their new products.

Environmental Technology Verification, ETV, is a way to overcome this barrier. ETV is independent, comparable and transparent documentation for the performance of innovative environmental technologies. ETV is supplementary to other schemes such as e.g. product certification, but aiming at innovative technologies. ETV schemes have been established in the US, Canada, Japan, Korea and the Philippines, and the European Union is aiming at an EU ETV scheme that can be operative from 2011.

Nordic Innovation Centre has supported establishment of ETV centers (NOWATECH) within water technologies in Denmark (DHI), Norway (Aquateam) and Sweden (IVL) resulting in established centers and a range of Nordic technologies verified.

The partners behind the NOWATECH ETV centers now propose to establish a formal Nordtest ETV scheme (NTETV) based upon the expertise developed and the needs identified in the NOWATECH project. The aim would be twofold:

- Expand the market position for Nordic innovative technologies by providing the framework for continued ETV
- Direct the EU ETV scheme towards an industry oriented ETV approach by demonstrating cost efficient ETV operation

The proposed Nordtest ETV scheme should thus be seen as a support for both the Nordic environmental technology industry and the European community. Furthermore, the scheme should be seen as a platform for cooperation with the established ETV schemes in Canada and the US, a cooperation which is already established within NOWATECH. The Nordtest ETV scheme should include:

- A Nordtest method for ETV based upon NOWATECH method
- A Nordtest ETV scheme handbook based upon the NOWATECH ETV quality manual
- A transnational, Nordic coordination committee

It is suggested that the Nordtest ETV scheme is established to include environmental technologies in a broad sense: water, air, energy, agriculture and sustainable technologies.

The suggestion is supported by the proposers (DHI, Aquateam and IVL), as well as by a range of Nordic stakeholders, see Appendix.

A more detailed description is enclosed as Appendix.

Appendix

Role and organization of the Nordtest ETV scheme - NTETV

The role of ETV can be illustrated as in Figure 1.

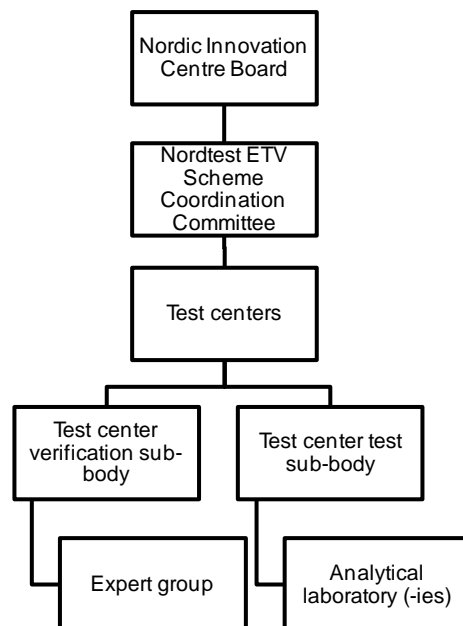
Figure 1 Role of ETV in the innovation and production process of environmental technologies

	Pilot and demonstration	Environmental technology verification	Product certification
Technology phase	Late development of product	Product ready for sale	Technology established on market
Documentation reference	Industry practice	EU ETV ¹ US EPA ETV	EN 45011 ISO/IEC Guide 65:1996 ISO/IEC Guide 67:2004
Purpose	Proof of concept and suggestions of improvement	Documentation of performance	Documentation of performance compliant with accepted requirements
Provided by	Vendor	Verification and test body	Certifying body
Status	Not independent	Independent	Independent
Performance parameters and requirements	Parameters set by the vendor of one product	Parameters set by the vendors of a technology/product group and relevant to the users	Parameters and quantitative requirements set in performance standard or similar normative document for the technology/industry
Required additional features	None	None	Surveillance of product compliance after certification
Optional additional features	None	None	Inspection of production facilities

It is suggested to organize the Nordtest ETV scheme as shown in Figure 2.

It is expected that a number of test centers will be established across the Nordic countries. Operation as test center under the Nordtest ETV scheme will require operation according to the scheme but is not restricted to e.g. the NOWAYTECH partners.

Figure 2 Suggested organization of the Nordtest ETV scheme



The supporting organizations are listed in Table 1.

Table 1 Supporting organizations

Organization	Technology sector	Country
DHI	Water Technologies and services	Denmark
IVL	Sustainable technologies	Sweden
Aquateam	Water Technologies and services	Norway
VTT	Sustainable technologies	Finland
Green Business Norway	CleanTech	Norway
Danish Industry Association	Technologies	Denmark
Samson Agro A/S	Environmental technologies in agriculture	Denmark
Danish Environmental Protection Agency	Environmental technologies	Denmark
Clean Water Norway	Water Technologies and services	Norway
AgroTech	Environmental technologies in agriculture	Denmark
Force Technology	Energy and air pollution environmental technologies	Denmark
The Association of Swedish Environmental Technology Industries	Environmental technologies	Sweden

Svibmo Aps	Environmental technologies in agriculture	Denmark
PurLiq ApS	Environmental technologies in agriculture	Denmark
Finnish Ministry of Environment	Environmental Technologies	Finland
Danish Technological Institute	Environmental Technologies	Denmark

The operation of the Nordtest ETV scheme is further described in:

ETV Test Center and Test Organization, Center Quality Manual, Template NOWATECH, DHI 2008.

ETV Organization in the US and Canada – Travel report, NOWATECH, DHI July, 2007

ETV Test Center and Test Organization – Basic requirements, NOWATECH, DHI, July 2007

and will be supported by a Nordtest ETV method elaborated as part of the NOWATECH final reporting.