

Mr. Bob Hanna,
Chief Technical Advisor,
Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources,
Adelaide Road,
Dublin 2.

19th May 2005

Re: Energy Research, Development and Demonstration: Consultation Paper

Dear Bob,

Cylon Controls are members of the University College Dublin Electricity Research Centre who have made a separate submission. Cylon Controls are the market leader in Ireland in the supply of Building Energy Management Systems, which reduce energy consumption and manage building services.

I have detailed the response below of Cylon Controls Ltd to the consultation paper on Energy Research, Development and Demonstration (R,D & D).

In Summary

1. We believe that the National Energy Policy objectives for the period 2005 – 2020 should be outlined clearly before an Energy Research Coordination Council commences operation.
2. We support an Energy Research Coordination Council selecting and prioritising R, D & D projects based on meeting these defined National Energy Policy objectives.
3. We suggest that the Energy Research Coordination Council should have members from each of the stakeholders i.e. industry, third level institutions, SFI and the Department.
4. We suggest that a National Energy & Environmental Policy objective should be set to reduce CO2 emissions and Energy usage similar to the Carbon 60 target in the UK.

Response to Specific Issues

6. Links with Environment

We believe that Energy and Environment R, D & D are intrinsically linked. Energy reduction and CO2 emission reduction are linked and are recognised as such by the EU in the “Energy Performance of Buildings Directive” Directive 2002/91/EC. This directive states that the 160 million buildings in Europe use over 40% of Europe’s Energy and create over 40% of Europe’s CO2 emissions. Savings of 22% are estimated as being possible.

We suggest that the remit of an Energy Research Coordination Council should target substantial funding for energy R, D & D specifically aimed at reducing Energy and CO2 emissions in buildings.

7. Long-term vs. short-term goals

We believe that Energy R, D & D should have a short and long-term focus. The short-term focus should be 3 – 8 years. The long-term focus should be for 10 – 20 years.

We suggest the funding should be focused more on the short term than the long term because of the need to have real outputs from the R, D & D than can be demonstrated and applied to achieve national Energy policy objectives.

We suggest that Ireland should adopt a long term Energy and CO2 focus similar to the Carbon 60 target in the UK. This has a target of reducing CO2 emissions by 60% by 2050. It proposes doing this by delivering reductions in four areas.

- a. Generate 20% of Energy greener (e.g. renewable or cleaner sources)
- b. Utilise Energy 20% more efficiently (e.g. using CHP, hybrid technology)
- c. Manage Energy better (e.g. distribute efficiently)
- d. Reduce our usage of Energy by 20%. (e.g. management & controls)

8. Funding

We believe public and private R, D & D should be coordinated and combined where appropriate. Private support is essential to allow for the deployment of the outputs of Energy R, D & D.

We suggest that an Energy Research Coordination Council should have members from each of the stakeholders i.e. industry, third level institutions, SFI and the Department to aid this coordination.

9. Capacity Building

There is a need to generate interest in Energy and CO2 issues at primary school and secondary school level. This will assist in creating a motivated pool of students. Third level colleges need to focus on developing and providing appropriate Energy R, D & D courses which teach state of the art knowledge in the sector. Funding needs to be provided to achieve these objectives.

It is estimated that oil supply will not keep up with oil demand between 2010 to 2020¹. Our view is that very substantial funds need to be targeted at a focused group of Industry and Third level R, D & D which is aimed at producing and demonstrating technology capable of achieving measurable Energy and CO2 reduction results.

We would be interested in attending the proposed public seminar.

Yours sincerely,

Sean Giblin

Sean Giblin
Managing Director

¹ BP exploration consultant Francis Harper estimated the amount of total usable oil reserves in the world are 2.4 trillion barrels, and production would peak between 2010 and 2020, the report said. Harper said production would drop off outside the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries first, concentrating power in the producer group. That forecast would mean demand outstripping supply much earlier than other forecasts by ExxonMobil Corp. (XOM) or Royal Dutch/Shell Group (RD SC). November 7th 2004

World Oil Output To Peak Next Decade - BP Exec