



Baseefa (2001) Ltd.

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New Company Same People - Same Place - Same Excellence A Bright Future

In September 2001, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) announced that it intended to close its Electrical Equipment Certification Service (EECS) in Buxton by 30 June 2003. The reasons are outlined below.

Baseefa (2001) Ltd. has been set up by existing senior staff from EECS to carry the reputation forward and to develop opportunities as they arise over the next few years. A significant majority of existing EECS technical staff have indicated that it is their wish, once they have left EECS, that they should join the new company. We intend to retain all that is good about EECS; its technical excellence and reputation for fair dealing, whilst adopting commercial practices that more clearly meet our customers' expectations. We will also be freed from HSE's concern of conflict with the regulatory role, so will be able to develop additional services related to the use of equipment.

Baseefa (2001) Ltd. has registered with UKAS and we anticipate achieving accreditation sometime in May. Notification under the ATEX Directive will follow approximately one week after accreditation. Formal international liaisons, including membership of the IECEx Certification Scheme, will also follow, later in the year.

EECS has recently written to all its active customers, asking them to consider transfer of existing product certificates and related quality notifications and licences to another notified body. Baseefa (2001) Ltd. will be ready to receive all such certificates and will also be able to accept work in progress, including by novation of the contract with EECS. There will be no cost to customers.

Baseefa (2001) Ltd. will accept transfer of existing production licences and Quality Assurance Notifications and make full use of the information already on file with EECS, thus avoiding any additional visits or costs.

We have been greatly encouraged by the response from the market place and by the number of customers, to date, who have already nominated Baseefa (2001) Ltd. as their future notified body.

The current staff of EECS represent a significant part of the conformity assessment resource in the ATEX field. At the present time, as we get closer to July 2003, the whole European resource in that field is becoming stretched. The EECS resource will remain in Buxton and will be in an ideal position to service its customers needs in the coming years.

There is some further information overleaf, but please make contact if you have any questions.

The saga of the closure of EECS started in 1991 when HSE took a decision in principle that it would seek to sell EECS into the private sector, to avoid possible conflict between its role as a regulator and its role as the owner of a certification body. Unfortunately, this proved to need an act of parliament, to provide a minor amendment to the Health and Safety at Work Act. It had not been envisaged when the original act was drawn up that HSE might wish to sell part of itself, so the power to do so had not been created.

A general safety bill, containing a clause enabling the sale of EECS, was started in late 2000 (and existing EECS staff started work towards a potential Management Buy Out). However, the bill was lost with the general election in June 2001 and the government did not find time for a replacement in the new parliament. As a result, HSE decided it was not going to be practicable to sell EECS within the next few years and that, to resolve the problem, it would shut the business and either redeploy existing staff elsewhere within HSE or declare them to be redundant.

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We intend to :

- Operate from offices and laboratories in Buxton (We are currently negotiating a lease with HSE.)
- Employ the majority of technical staff currently working for EECS
- Maintain technical excellence for the benefit of our customers, thanks to the lead provided by members of the existing EECS Management Team :

Ron Sinclair - currently Product Certification Manager for EECS and chairman of BSI Technical Committee GEL/31, as well as the principal UK delegate to many European and International standards meetings over recent years

Peter Dickie - currently head of Flameproof Certification for EECS and the UK's acknowledged expert in Pressurised Equipment as well as Flameproof, who has made, and will continue to make, a major contribution to standards in those areas

Maurice Powney - currently head of Intrinsic Safety Certification for EECS and a leading member of the relevant committees. No one has a better understanding of the subject.

Mike Corfield - currently head of Reliability Concepts for EECS and a member of the European Working Group on Safety Devices

Len Beet - currently head of Testing Facilities for EECS and an acknowledged expert on the Group I (mining) side of the business.

Alan Barber - currently Management Systems Manager for EECS with many years experience of applying Quality Systems to the manufacture of Ex Equipment

- Obtain UKAS accreditation followed by Notified Body status for ATEX during May 2002
- Start taking some new work from April 2002 (ATEX Category 3 certificates could be issued ahead of the notification, since they have voluntary rather than legal status.)
- Receive transferred technical files and information for production licences and Quality Assurance Notifications from June onwards
- Accept transfer of work currently in progress with EECS at a time of your choosing, either by novation of the contract or on a cancellation and new contract basis
- Build staff numbers as individuals leave EECS and become available (Since leaving dates are in the control of EECS, there is difficulty in being precise but we expect the majority of our staff to be in place during the latter half of 2002.)
- Form co-operation agreements with other bodies to provide "one stop shopping" for all your conformity assessment needs
- Develop new services, including those related to equipment installation and to training for both manufacturers and users of equipment
- Ensure that we can provide a comprehensive, technically excellent, timely and cost effective service to fully meet the needs of you, our customers

To help us communicate with you, please drop us a quick e-mail at ron.sinclair@virgin.net and we will keep you up to date as our services build up. We will also give you our new working address, telephone numbers, web site and e-mail information as they are allocated over the next few weeks.