



THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

## MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### MEDIA RELEASE

## Minister of Energy & Energy Affairs to Launch Energy Services Companies Certification Committee

**Port of Spain, January 18, 2012.** Senator the Honourable Kevin Ramnarine, Minister of Energy and Energy Affairs (MEAA), will hand over instruments of appointment to an eleven (11)-member committee appointed by Cabinet to certify companies who wish to provide energy audits to the energy industry on January 20, 2012 at 10am at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

The establishment of this Energy Service Company (ESCO) Certification Committee is integral to the development of the Government's Sustainable Energy Programme. Energy audits conducted by the ESCOs will assess how efficiently energy is being used in a commercial undertaking or manufacturing site. It is envisaged that such energy audits will treat with issues already identified by the National Energy Corporation's Energy Efficiency Study conducted in 2010, which examined and made recommendations in respect of a number of areas for interventions in order to increase energy efficiency. The ESCO Certification Committee will comprise representatives of the following agencies who will be mandated to define the framework for certification and make recommendations to the Honourable Minister of Energy and Energy Affairs for his certification as mandated in Finance Act of 2010:

- Ministry of Energy and Energy Affairs - Chairman – Mr. Richard Oliver, Deputy Permanent Secretary
- The Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards - Deputy Chairman – Ms. Ronah Persad, Head, Certification Division
- The Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago
- The Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission
- The University of Trinidad and Tobago
- The Trinidad and Tobago Green Building Council
- The Board of Engineering



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- The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine
- Regulated Industries Commission
- Ministry of Public Utilities

In an effort to encourage ESCOs to offer such services, the MEAA will offer the following generous incentives:

- Companies which carry out energy audits and install energy-saving equipment will be given a 150% tax allowance for both the audit and the installation
- Companies which perform energy audits (ESCOs) will be given a 75% accelerated depreciation on all plant and machinery for the purpose of conducting the energy audits.

In establishing this committee and offering such incentives, the MEAA demonstrates its continued commitment to ensuring that energy is used effectively and efficiently in our commercial and industrial undertakings, so optimising the use of our country's finite petroleum resources.

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MINISTRY OF  
**ENERGY**  
AND ENERGY AFFAIRS  
*POWER. PROSPERITY. PROGRESS.*