

# NEWS RELEASE

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## CONFERENCE EXPLORES THE RISE OF RATINGS

The lessons learned from implementing Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) in residential buildings and the expectations for commercial buildings will be discussed at “Rise of the Ratings”, the NHER/SAVA Conference, to be held on 29-30 October 2007 in London.

The government is expected to complete the roll out of EPCs to all homes for sale or under construction very soon. EPCs will be required for rented homes in October 2008. Similar certificates will also start to appear from next April in non-domestic buildings including offices and shops, and in public buildings such as schools and hospitals.

Speakers at the Rise of the Ratings Conference will include the Secretary of State Yvette Cooper MP, senior representatives from CLG, the Home Builders’ Federation chairman Stewart Baseley, Brenda Boardman of the University of Oxford Environmental Change Institute, Neil Morton of Birmingham City Council and Dominic Miles-Shenton of Leeds Metropolitan University.

Sessions will cover the latest developments in energy efficient new build housing, the strategies for social and private landlords, the opportunities in the commercial property sector, the bigger picture of national and international carbon reduction policies and future opportunities for the Home Inspector profession beyond Home Condition Reports. Day two of the conference will also include a short debate about “What to do with the G’s?”, putting the case for demolition or refurbishment of G-rated homes.

In addition to the main conference, workshops will explore in depth issues such as the future for the Home Condition Report, gadgets and technology solutions for energy assessors and the results of piloting EPCs in the social housing sector.

There will be a masterclass in the use of RDSAP software, and discussion of the working options available to self-employed Home Inspectors and energy assessors. Business Link will also be at hand to answer their queries on finance, tax, regulation, sales and marketing.

The Rise of the Ratings Conference will be held at the Congress Centre, Great Russell Street, London on Monday 29 and Tuesday 30 October 2007. It is sponsored by the SAVA Business Exchange, an independent, nationwide provider of high quality EPC services to Home Information Pack providers, solicitors and others.

To download the conference programme and booking form, go to: [www.nesltd.co.uk/conference.htm](http://www.nesltd.co.uk/conference.htm)

## **ENDS**

Issued on behalf of National Energy Services by Liz Male Consulting Ltd.

For further information, please contact:  
Matthew Culnane, Communications Executive, tel. 01908 442164  
Liz Male, tel. 01908 551976

## **Notes to Editors**

1. Following on from its implementation within the residential sector, the EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive requires the energy labelling of all commercial property, starting in April 2008.
2. National Energy Services (NES) owns and operates both the NHER scheme and SAVA. Since the company was launched in 1994, the NES team has grown to more than 80 people, including software developers, environmental scientists, building services engineers, building physicists, business management specialists, statisticians and residential surveyors. NES is a trading subsidiary of the National Energy Foundation, an independent charity set up in 1988 to promote energy conservation and provide help to improve energy efficiency in residential buildings.
3. The National Home Energy Rating (NHER) scheme provides technical and business support for individuals and organisations involved in domestic energy efficiency. The NHER runs a training and assessment programme for Domestic Energy Assessors (DEA), and an accreditation scheme for DEAs. [www.nher.co.uk](http://www.nher.co.uk) / [www.dea-training.co.uk](http://www.dea-training.co.uk)
4. SAVA is a leading provider of training and software to Home Inspectors. SAVA was also the first certification scheme for home inspectors. [www.sava.org.uk](http://www.sava.org.uk)