

PRESS RELEASE

Environmental Scientifics Group works closely with the Environment Agency on Air Quality in Major Incidents

Following the explosions and fires at the Buncefield oil storage and transfer depot in December 2005 (“the Buncefield incident”), the Major Incident Investigation Board recommended the co-ordination of air quality modelling and monitoring data in major air pollution incidents.

As a result, the Environment Agency has been working together with several other Government agencies* to achieve this, through the creation of a multi-agency national Air Quality Cell (AQC).

The AQC’s new air monitoring and improved modelling capability will be used in all major chemical air pollution incidents. It is already partially operating using interim arrangements and will be fully operational by April 2010.

As an established supplier to the Environment Agency, Environmental Scientifics Group (ESG), was selected to participate in the AQC through a tender process. The company will ultimately be responsible for responding to call-outs and monitoring air quality in the South East region and is currently prepared to respond to incidents in any part of England and Wales, as part of the interim arrangements.

Environmental Scientifics Group is the UK’s leading environmental compliance company, offering an unrivalled range of technical expertise and accredited services – including environmental monitoring and consultancy for air quality. This expertise together with the opening of the company’s new Romford office in May 2009 means it is well placed to be the ideal AQC partner for the South East. Today, an ESG team

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would aim to be on site to a major incident in London within 30 minutes. This allows ESG to commence the air quality monitoring and analysis necessary to provide vital information as quickly as possible, helping to reduce any potential risk to local residents from the incident.

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Notes for editors

* Other agencies involved are: Health and Safety Laboratory, Health Protection Agency, Public Health Wales, Food Standards Agency, Local Authorities and the Met Office

Environmental Scientifics Group provides a comprehensive range of environmental monitoring services to help companies fulfil their legal obligations and to comply with environmental regulations. Our expert field teams provide national coverage. Tailored services include site investigation, sampling and analysis, monitoring, interpretation and advice.

All organisations, whatever their size or function, will have an impact on the environment. ESG's field consultants provide environmental analysis, monitoring and advice to assist clients in complying with increasingly onerous legislation, adopting industry best practice, and minimising their impact on the environment.

ESG's environmental services include:

- Industrial effluent monitoring, analysis and advice
- Contaminated land investigation
- Environmental noise assessment and control
- Air quality monitoring and assessment
- Dangerous goods safety advice
- Stack emissions monitoring
- Liaison with regulators

About Environmental Scientifics Group (ESG)

Environmental Scientifics Group, or ESG as most people know it, is the UK's leading company in environmental inspection, testing and consultancy. Grown out of the combination of a number of strong businesses including Environmental Services Group and Scientifics, ESG prides itself on the

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levels of accreditation it holds within its businesses and has a long standing reputation of delivering the highest level of service to its clients.

ESG have been significant drivers of change and innovation within the industry, driven by legislation, international standards and the economic climate. Today, the business enjoys unrivalled expertise and breadth of scope across a large and diverse range of market sectors covering Geotechnical and Energy Testing, Environmental Safety Compliance and Laboratories and Analytical Services. ESG is a member of the Inspicio Group. For more information visit www.esg.co.uk

About Inspicio

With over 8,000 employees operating in 130 countries, Inspicio is a global leader in the international inspection and testing market. The Group operates across three key market segments: commodities, environmental and food testing. Inspicio is wholly owned by 3i and the Group's management and employees.

The Inspicio strategy is to develop the Group through both organic and acquisitive growth, combined with operational excellence, whilst maximising any consolidation opportunities. The Inspicio vision is to become a significant global player in the TIC market. www.inspicio.com