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Media release

Electricity Commission launches Motor Bounty Scheme

The Electricity Commission's Motor Bounty Scheme, which pays motor users to remove and replace old, inefficient motors, is being launched nationally this month after the successful completion of a five month pilot.

The Commission will save electricity by paying a bounty on old motors and accelerating their replacement with motors that meet the national minimum energy performance standards. A nation-wide pool of Accredited Service Providers (ASPs) has been established to manage the process. The ASPs are encouraging replacement rather than repair of old, less-efficient motors. About 8000 kW of motors have been removed so far through the pilot scheme.

Commission Chair David Caygill says: "The scheme is expected to save about 20 GWh of electricity per annum by December 2009 - enough to power nearly 2500 homes for a year. It provides an incentive for motor users to replace their old, inefficient motors with high efficiency models. In addition to the bounty payment motor users will benefit from reduced electricity costs, improved reliability, reduced downtime and a reduced carbon footprint."

An investigation by the Commission into electricity efficiency potential identified significant opportunity in electric motor systems. The scheme is targeting used, three-phase induction motors from 22 kW to 185 kW in size, manufactured prior to 2002.

The Motor Bounty Scheme is expected to run until the end of next year. The next step for the Commission in the electric motors area is to assist the motor rewind industry with the development of a motor rewinder workshop quality scheme. The purpose of that is to minimise motor efficiency losses when motors are rewound.

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