

City of eThekweni, **PRESS RELEASE**
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NOW AVAILABLE: TECHNICAL MONITORING SYSTEM FOR OIL REFINERY FLARING EMISSIONS

For the first time in South Africa a **technical scheme for the monitoring of exhausts from flares in oil refineries** will be presented with a scope of further development and later implementation. The presentation will take place on Wednesday 28. November 2007, hosted by the City of eThekweni.

The scheme has the technical potential to fill in the gap of technical knowledge needed to **precisely and objectively monitor the exhausts from flares**. The scheme may provide a precise and neutral platform for the oil industry and the authorities in a constructive handling of flaring incidents and the issue in general. Also the scheme may help to meet long lasting concerns of the public about the compounds of the flares, potentially harmful to human health.

Currently concerns of excessive flaring have to be investigated by the relevant authorities and the refinery concerned without such adequate technical records of vent gas flow rates, composition or of the flame appearance.

On this background the City, financially supported by UEM Flare Monitoring Project has commissioned Prof. Dr. Eugene Cairncross to review international Best Practice as the platform to elaborate the technical proposal for a scheme for this monitoring, which is appropriate to South African refineries and conditions. The South African oil industry and the authorities in the field and the oil industry have supplied data and other collaboration for this, and the scheme proposed is based on international best practice, but tailored to local conditions.

“By defining a *technical* recipe for the monitoring, a milestone has been passed says. (Title, name, from The City of eThekweni). He adds that important work lies ahead before the scheme can have real impact: “Further refinement and subsequent implementation will obviously require a buy-in from all stakeholders, including technical and financial collaboration and support. On the technical level alone it will be needed that refineries install equipment is installed in the refineries to continuously monitor all flows to flaring systems. In addition video records and other measures will be needed.”

“Once implemented, however, the scheme will facilitate identification of immediate as well as underlying causes of flarings. In the international experience of this field this will lead to substantial reductions in frequency and severity of flaring, with corresponding direct and indirect savings to the industry and reductions in impacts to environment and health”, says Dr. Eugene Cairncross.

For more info

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