

# How CE Electric UK gained PAS 55 accreditation

**David Gooda, Principal Consultant, The Woodhouse Partnership Ltd**

**C**E Electric UK is committed to ensuring that effective asset management remains at the heart of its operations and in doing so wishes to ensure it remains compliant with the requirements of BSI PAS 55, the specification for the optimised management of physical assets, and continually improve its asset management practices. They were awarded accreditation in March 2008 by The Woodhouse Partnership Ltd (TWPL).



Phil Jones, president of CE Electric UK, receives the PAS 55 accreditation from David Gooda, principal consultant of The Woodhouse Partnership Ltd. Also pictured are (back, left to right) Andrew Spencer, Lawrence Fletcher and Mark Drye of CE Electric UK.

Lawrence Fletcher, head of performance and innovation for CE Electric UK, said: "In gaining certification to PAS 55, we wanted to ensure that we achieved enduring improvements in our business for the benefit of our customers."

## The way to BSI PAS 55 accreditation

The project started in February 2007 with management awareness training in the specific requirements of PAS 55, which progressed smoothly through an in-depth assessment of CE Electric UK's asset management system, associated business

processes, information systems and working practices. The work involved using the new Institute of Asset Management's (IAM) assessment methodology for the first time. Developed with a group of 24 organisations, this methodology helps ensure rigor and comprehensive scrutiny against the 21 requirement areas of PAS 55, helping to keep companies at the leading edge of infrastructure asset management. The final stage of the process was a formal PAS 55 compliance review, which took place in February 2008 and was successfully completed. The following month CE Electric UK were certified as compliant with PAS 55 requirements for the optimised management of its physical assets, in line with the requirements set by industry regulator, Ofgem.

## Continuous improvements

As an essential part of being BSI PAS 55 certified, regular reviews are required to confirm the organisation is continuing to conform with the requirements of PAS 55. The monitoring includes assessing continuous improvement activities, impact of changes and effectiveness of asset management system application.

During February 2009 and again in March 2010, CE Electric UK retained TWPL to carry out a post-accreditation surveillance review

CE Electric UK is a wholly-owned subsidiary of MidAmerican Energy Holdings Company and comprises: the electricity distribution business, operating through its subsidiary companies Northern Electric Distribution (NEDL) and Yorkshire Electricity Distribution (YEDL), which delivers electricity to 3.7 million premises in north east England, Yorkshire and north Lincolnshire; the subsidiary Integrated Utility Services (IUS), which provides engineering resources, including strategic and technical design of electrical distribution systems, through to construction, installation and commissioning of assets for all system voltages up to 132kV. CE's UK network consists of more than 31000 substations, 33000km of overhead line and 66800km of underground cable. Their role is to ensure a reliable, consistent and safe supply of electricity, over an area of operation covering 25000sq kms — from north Northumberland south to the Humber and northern Lincolnshire, and from the east coast to the Pennines.

which involved both spot audits and end-to-end process reviews to ensure that any compliance issues were under control, that corrective actions were appropriate and effective and that longer term asset-related programmes were optimised and aligned with business objectives.

TWPL's David Gooda said: "We are pleased to continue to work with CE Electric UK to help maintain their compliance with PAS 55 requirements, retain their accreditation status and help the continuous improvement process. During the surveillance review we were impressed by the good progress made by CE Electric UK to further embed asset management good practice in their regulated business and thereby obtain some of the wider benefits available. The positive result of some of our earlier recommendations, a year on, was also good to see."

Being PAS 55 certified will help keep CE Electric UK at the leading edge of asset management processes, with the purpose to create shareholder value by operating a sustainable energy infrastructure business in such a way as to optimise long-term returns which is underpinned by their six key priorities: customer service, employee commitment, financial strength, environment respect, regulatory integrity and operational excellence.

Recertification against the updated 2008 version of PAS 55 is scheduled for March 2011. ✨

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CE Electric UK followed the TWPL assessment and certification process outlined below:

<b>Stage 1:</b>	<b>Planning and scope preparation</b>
	▶ Identifies the scope of the assessment (eg specific site, business area or whole enterprise), the data and information requirements and the meetings that will be needed with key staff.
<b>Stage 2:</b>	<b>Initial assessment</b>
	▶ Assessment of assets condition, performance, management processes and management system. Identification of any obvious gaps against the 21 points of the PAS 55 requirement. Preparation, discussion and planning assistance for actions necessary to address the gaps.
<b>Stage 3:</b>	<b>Repeat assessment/validation (typically 6-18 months later)</b>
	▶ Review of changes and validation of initial assessment findings. If all relevant elements now satisfactory ('Competent' grade on the 5-level assessment system), award of PAS 55 Certificate.
<b>Stage 4:</b>	<b>Annual updates &amp; 3-yearly re-certification reviews</b>
	▶ Annual site visit to assess continuous improvement activities, impact of changes and system effectiveness monitoring.
	▶ Systematic review of changes and re-validation of certification criteria (including update to any changes in PAS requirements). If all relevant elements still satisfactory award of PAS 55 Certificate.