



## **The Scope for Energy Savings in the EU Through the Use of Energy-Efficient Electricity Distribution Transformers**

The European Commission has recently awarded a contract under the "THERMIE" programme to a team led by the European Copper Institute (ECI), which represents the world's major copper producers - through its membership with the International Copper Association (ICA) - and Europe's leading fabricators. The project will assess the scope for installing energy-efficient distribution transformers in both utility-operated and private electricity supply systems in the European Union. Team members are EDON (NL), ETSU (UK), KEMA (NL) and Pauwels (B).

The study will measure the contribution transformers could make to energy savings and global warming in the European Union. It will identify the technical, engineering and financial barriers to their application, and develop a strategy at European level to encourage their introduction if appropriate.

Transformers could emerge as a major focus for energy efficiency initiatives in the EU, comparable with electric motors, domestic appliances etc. They are potentially capable of making a similar contribution to reducing carbon emissions and achieving global warming goals. The aim is to provide a realistic appraisal of the potential for installing energy efficient distribution transformers in electricity systems in the European Union. This will assist the European Commission, the governments of Member States, and regulators, to understand the current and future scope for energy savings which is associated with energy-efficient distribution transformers. Specific actions already taking place or planned within the Community will be indicated, together with its priority compared to other targets.

Key steps will include the collection of statistical data on existing transformer populations in Europe, appraisal of the new technologies, evaluation of the performance of energy-efficient designs, assessment of the potential for energy saving in Europe and drafting of a strategic plan for implementation. The report and strategic plan will be refined in a workshop towards the end of the project.

The project will also help electricity utilities and private electricity network operators to identify and specify energy-efficient equipment, based on a clear understanding of available products and technology, financial pay-backs, and the use of concepts such as demand side management (DSM).

European Commission–DG17  
<http://europa.eu/int/en/comm/dq17/>

**For further information:**  
**Hans De Keulenaer**  
**Tel : +32-2-777 70 84**  
**E-mail: [hdk@eurocopper.org](mailto:hdk@eurocopper.org)**