



## **Renewable heat incentive (RHI) a 'sideways step rather than genuine move forward'**

*Need for monitoring recognised but the delay on tariff commitment could impact householder take-up*

11 March – The new renewable heat incentive (RHI) proposal announced yesterday (10 March) has recognised the need for accurate and effective monitoring of renewable technologies, but pushing back on a tariff commitment until October 2012 means there is a missed opportunity in getting consumers to adopt these technologies, according to connected home firm [PassivSystems](#).

RHI will offer businesses and public sector organisations cash incentives to install renewable heat sources, including biomass, heat pumps, woodfuel burners and solar thermal. Tariffs will be paid for 20 years to eligible technologies installed since 15 July 2009, with payments being made for each kWh of renewable heat which is produced.

However, there will be no tariff commitment for homes until 2012. Whilst the Government will introduce a RHI Premium for domestic installations in the interim, this will prioritise homes living off grid and the £15M premium to be distributed amongst 25,000 homes means that there is little cash incentive for homeowners to invest in renewable technologies unless they already had plans to do so.

“This feels like a sideways step rather than a genuine move forward for UK householders,” said Colin Calder, CEO, PassivSystems. “Renewable technology needs to be a mass market solution and waiting 18 months for homeowners to enjoy the long-term tariff support offered to the non-domestic sector doesn’t feel right. Consumers need to be encouraged to adopt renewable technologies and there is a real worry that this delay could seriously impact momentum.”

PassivSystems is working on a £1.1 million project with the Energy Technologies Institute (ETI) that examines the performance and potential impact of renewable technology in the home, with the risk of renewables not performing to their potential a genuine one. PassivSystems has been a long-term advocate of effective monitoring and already supplies solar PV monitoring technology to almost half of the UK’s solar PV equipment installers.

“We’ve been lobbying strongly for the Government to acknowledge the need for accurate monitoring and metering in renewable so we are delighted to see that recognised in the RHI proposal,” concluded Colin Calder. “Effective monitoring has provided consumers with much more transparency in the FIT scheme and they require that same transparency of performance if RHI is to be a success.”

Unlike many solar monitoring solutions, PassivSystems collects data directly from the generation meter instead of the inverter, so the information on solar panel performance is much more accurate. PassivSystems already has in development similar monitoring systems for other renewable technologies cited in the RHI proposal and is uniquely positioned to ensure the consumer gets a

worthwhile return on their investment and the UK as a whole gets the required reduction in carbon emissions.

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**About PassivSystems:** [www.passivsystems.com](http://www.passivsystems.com)

PassivSystems Ltd was established in 2008 to develop smart-home technology for the mass market. Beginning with energy, and continuing with security, assisted-living and other lifestyle services, PassivSystems creates simple, human-centred products that deliver effective solutions to some of today's most pressing global problems.

The company and its first product PassivEnergy have been widely commended by industry and media. The PassivEnergy home energy management product was cited as one of the top five gadgets at CES 2010 and PassivSystems was recognised as one of Europe's leading privately owned companies in the Red Herring 100 Europe 2010.

Further recognition followed with PassivSystems named as both a 2010 Global Cleantech 100 and Tech Media Invest 100 company and the latest commendation was as a Red Herring Global 100 company. This was awarded in January 2011 and recognises the world's most promising private technology businesses.