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Dear Colleague

A ROUND ROBIN ON POWDER SIZE CHARACTERISATION

In a DTI-funded, PowdermatriX-sponsored project to evaluate the current status of powder size measurement, NPL in conjunction with the LGC and a small group of test houses (CERAM Research, University of Leeds Industrial Centre of Particle Science and Engineering, and Particle Technology Ltd) is conducting a round-robin. The objectives are to establish how measurements are being made in industry, what the comparability of outcomes is between different methods, and to attempt to identify the key issues that lead to good quality reliable results. This exercise will act as a precursor to the launching by LGC of a proficiency scheme for powder size measurement.

We apologise if you have received this letter from more than one source, but all the partners are distributing to their contacts to ensure as wide a participation as possible. We think that you may be interested in taking part. This would be on a **completely confidential basis** and this includes the identity of your equipment. We would allot you a unique number, and all correspondence would be with NPL only. Only the returned data would be analysed by the project group.

Initially, you would be supplied with three different powders (silica and calcium carbonate, not reference materials) over a period of three months and asked to provide an analysis in the manner in which you would normally undertake such work. There will be a form to return with your results, which should be completed giving details of how you set about the measurement. At a later date we anticipate a follow-up round robin which will include a wider range of powder types.

This is not focused on any particular technique, and if you are willing, we would welcome you using more than one instrument to do the work.

Attached is a **participation sheet**. If you would like to join in and contribute to this work, please fill in the sheet and return it as indicated. We can then provide you with an anonymous laboratory number and the test sample pack.

Looking forward to your response

Handwritten signatures of Ken Mingard and Roger Morrell in blue ink.

Ken Mingard and Roger Morrell
Division of Engineering and Process Control