Policymakers increasingly make use of MEPS to increase efficiencies of products placed on the market. The industry itself has for a long time made use of voluntary third-party certification programmes to allow a product-by-product comparison and verify its claims of product performances. Independent verification of efficiencies is basis for energy labelling, calculation of the total cost of ownership, and provides much needed transparency and objectivity. But products are only one part of a wider value chain. The most efficient product will not deliver its designed performance if not used, installed, operated, and maintained correctly. New technologies, connectivity, smart components, as well as alternative refrigerants all require a new set of knowledge and skills to be used efficiently. Certification of professionals as well as certification of companies, buildings, and facilities need to be considered.

**Moderator:** Mr. Khaled Klaly, Montreal Protocol Regional Coordinator/ West Asia

**Panelists**

- Mr. Markus Lattner, Managing Director, Eurovent Middle East
- Ms. Nerissa Deoraj, Director Public Affairs, Systemair
- Mr. Vilas Bakshi, Managing Director, Aeroseal
- Mr. Ali Alexandre Nour Eddine, Senior Technical Manager, Eurovent Certification
- Mr. Satish Kumar, Managing Director, AEEE
- Mr. Yaqoub Al-Matouq, Head of Ozone Section, EPA Kuwait
- Mr. Hassan Mubarak, Director, Ozone Unit, SCE, Bahrain

**Discussion points**

Voluntary product certification is widely established and requested by market participants to ensure mechanical and electrical performance. What are the benefits of these certification schemes and why is the industry depending on them?

In many countries, engineers are compelled to a certain amount of hours of continued education per year. What are the mechanisms behind this obligation and is it resulting in enough education to satisfy the industry needs?

How can we approach dedicated skill requirements for HVACR technicians? Is certification of technical personnel viable and should it be mandated by governments?

Re-commissioning, building certificates, cold storage certification: what other potential certification schemes can contribute to a better energy management and efficiency gains?