MALTA RESOURCES AUTHORITY

MRA PR 10/07/en

Liberalisation of the Inland Fuel Market

During the accession negotiations, Malta and the European Union (EU) agreed on the need *"to adjust the market in the importation, stocking and wholesale marketing of petroleum products"* away from the monopoly so far enjoyed by Enemalta Corporation.

A liberalised fuel market will result from this adjustment.

To achieve this objective, several actions have been taken. These include:

- the enactment of amendments to the MRA. Act. These amendments will enable the Malta Resource Authority to effectively monitor and regulate petroleum fuel operations and to oversee the petroleum market liberalisation.
- the publishing of the necessary legislation (Petroleum for the Inland (Wholesale) Fuel Market regulations, 2007);
- the opening and call for applications for certain operating licences, i.e.

  to carry out the activity of an importer and or wholesaler of petroleum,
  to operate a primary storage facility.

The application forms of these licences and relative conditions will be published in the Authority's website as from Tuesday, 2nd October, 2007.

All efforts will be made to ensure an expeditious consideration of the licence applications.

It is recognised that operators need time to adapt to the new liberalised environment. The new regulations and conditions attached to the operating licences are sufficient to allow for an orderly transition.

The consumer is the main focus of this liberalisation programme. All operators should be aware that the consumer deserves, and is expecting upgrading of standards, not least where quality, the price of service rendered and safety in operations are concerned.

Stakeholders, market operators and members of the general public are invited to direct any query regarding the liberalisation programme to the Authority by telephone at the following number 22955154, by means of electronic mail at mra@mra.org.mt or by regular post to the Malta Resources Authority, Millennia, Aldo Moro Road, Marsa MRS 9065, Malta.
Officials of the Authority are available to meet with potential operators to clarify any queries that may arise.

2nd October 2007