

ESCO Grading Process

Information for ESCO Empanelment

BEE undertakes the process of rating ESCOs in terms of success in implementation of energy efficiency projects based on performance contracting, availability of technical manpower, financial strength, etc. The rating exercise is done through three SEBI accredited agencies of CRISIL, ICRA and CARE.

An accreditation methodology was developed which involves assessment of Business Risk (Track record and Market position), Organizational setup and Financial capability of the organization and accrediting the ESCOs on a 5 point grading scale. The Assessments of the ESCOs on each of the parameters are a holistic one, designed to evaluate the organizational capability for handling the ESCO assignment.

The grading scale is described as below:

GRADING	Definition	Score
GRADE 1	VERY HIGH	85 and above
GRADE 2	HIGH	70 – 84
GRADE 3	GOOD	55 – 69
GRADE 4	AVERAGE	40 – 54
GRADE 5	POOR	0 – 39

Criteria for assessment:

The parameters for assessment include:

- Years in the ESCO/energy management business.
- Number and nature of energy audits carried out till date.
- Client Profile
- Number of different industries served.
- Order book strength as measured by ratio of current order book/previous year's turnover.
- Number of energy management projects completed.
- Certification and quality systems.
- Technology tie-ups.
- Patents held by the company.
- R&D facilities.
- Constitution, ownership structure and parentage.
- Management evaluation and quality of organizational structure, internal control and systems.
- Employee strength in terms of numbers, qualification and experience.

- Number of certified energy auditors.
- Maximum number of projects handled at a time.
- Annual turnover from the ESCO/energy management business.
- Profit margins of the ESCO business.
- Overall financial strength as reflected by the capital structure and debt servicing indicators like net cash accruals/total debt
- Receivables management.
- Financial flexibility arising from access to cash-flows/profits from other business.

A 100 point scale has been devised based on the above parameters with a 40% weight-age given to Business Risks, 25% weight-age to Organizational Risks and 35% to Financial Risks.

Brief Details

- Brief note on the history of the company and key milestones so far (include details of year of incorporation/establishment, commencement of operations, commencement of business related to ESCO)
- Brief profile of Board of Directors and Key Management Personnel (include responsibilities, qualification, and experience)
- Shareholding pattern of the company as on March month of last financial year
- Write-up on major subsidiaries and associates along with key financials for last year. Provide details of investment made by the parent company.

Business Related

- Brief write-up on company especially activities related to energy management/energy savings/ESCO (shared savings and performance guarantee)/ energy audit/ consultancy/ equipment manufactured/ turnkey projects.
- Has the company entered into ESCO contracts till date?
- If so, please provide details with regards to the nature of service provided, customer details, timeline for execution, savings achieved, duration of the project, and details of time and cost overruns if any.
- Specify no. of years in all energy management/energy related businesses.
- Specify no. of years in ESCO business.
- Specify no. of energy audits carried out till date vis-à-vis recommendations implemented.
- Specify no. of clients in the energy management/energy related businesses.

- Specify no. of different industries/sectors covered and nature of energy related services/products offered by the company, along with the nature of benefits derived from these services/products.
- Provide current order book for all energy management/energy related activities and the likely revenue to be generated from the same
- Specify no. of projects completed for all energy management/energy savings/ESCO based performance contracts (shared savings and guarantee saving)/energy audit/consultancy/equipment manufactured/turnkey projects.
- Quantification of savings (in terms of Rupee saved or energy units saved year-wise) for all energy management/energy saving/ESCO projects carried out during last three years since last FY along with project-wise breakup, if available.
- Has there ever been a situation in which the ESCO has guaranteed a particular level of savings but has not been able to achieve the same?
- What is the maximum amount of savings achieved by the company? How does the company define the base line on which the savings are calculated?
- Energy savings for last three years may be provided in the following format:

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Govt./ Public Sector Projects			
Total Energy Saved in qty*			
Total Energy Saved in Rs. Crores			
Private Sector Projects			
Total Energy Saved in qty*			
Total Energy Saved in Rs. Crores			

* In kilowatt hours/MW/KVA Avoided load/Kjoules/Gcal or any other unit in which company measures energy savings is mandatory to report.

**Kindly note that the above table has to be duly certified by the company.

- Does the company have a dedicated business development team and a defined marketing strategy?
- Has the company availed or is in the process of availing carbon credits?
- Please confirm that all statutory dues and taxes are paid on time and that all regulatory compliances have been adhered to (Required on company letter head).

- Provide a confirmation that neither the company nor the promoters have any ongoing legal proceedings (Required on company letter head).

Organisation Related

- No. of BEE certified energy auditors.
- Note on documentation of processes and MIS maintained.
- Note on ISO certification and other accreditations and awards related to the energy management/energy related activities.
- Note on patents for energy management/energy related products/services.
- Note on technological tie-ups entered into for energy management/energy related products/services.
- Note on research and development activities undertaken along with team strength and qualification. Also provide details on the expenditure of the company towards research and development every year.
- Note on number and quality and frequency of training programme for employees. Also provide details on total employee strength for the overall business and ESCO related business.
- List of key personnel along with details (Technical qualification, Total years of service, previous experiences etc.)
- Total manpower strength along with breakup in terms of Qualification (Engineers, Cas, skilled, semiskilled etc.), Years of relevant experience.
- Facilities for procurement of audit equipment, also indicating own manufacturing facilities, if any.
- Note on inventory of equipment of ESCO/audit instruments owned along with adequacy in relation to the current and expected order book.
- Does ESCO outsource any part of its activities? If any provide list of activities outsourced.
- Note on definition of job role for team members.
- Maximum no. of energy management/energy related projects handled simultaneously at any point of time.
- Note on organizational structure, controls and systems.

Finance Related

- Annual reports for the last three years along with divisional financial statements for the energy management/energy savings/ESCO grading business, separately if available.
- Previous year's turnover for ESCO activities.
- Previous year's profits (both at before depreciation, interest and tax levels and at net levels) for ESCO activities.
- Previous year's turnover for all energy management/energy related activities.
- Previous year's profits (both at before depreciation, interest and tax levels and at net levels) for all energy management/energy related activities.

Analysis of receivables

- Details of terms of payment with customers
- Past track record of writing off debtors if any
- Ageing analysis of receivables

In addition to the aforementioned information, you are also requested to arrange for feedback from at least 4-5 major clients and from the bankers and auditors of the company.