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To whom it may concern,

### **TESTIMONIAL FOR MR. M.J. PYKE**

I have known Mike Pyke since 1986 when he joined the Overhead Lines research group at the Central Electricity Research Laboratories (CERL). Leatherhead, as an Assistant Technical Officer (ATO). CERL was the principal research laboratory of the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB). The research group, comprising five people, was one of three groups forming the Vibrations and Aerodynamics Section, of which I was the Section Head. Mike had already worked with Site Services at CERL for some five years as an electrical fitter and the abilities that he had demonstrated had marked him out for promotion to ATO when a suitable vacancy arose.

Mike rapidly adapted to his new post, taking on the responsibility for constructing and testing prototypes of logic circuits for controlling special-purpose video equipment mounted on transmission towers (pylons). In response to the needs of the job. Mike trained to climb and work on transmission towers. He showed an aptitude and enthusiasm for working with personal computers at a time when these were much less common, more specialist items than they are now. He became the Group's principal resource for experimental investigations, in terms of instrumentation, instrumentation development, data logging and initial data analysis.

On privatisation of the CEGB in March 1990, Mike, together with myself and many colleagues from CERL. joined the newly-formed National Grid as part of its R & D function at Leatherhead. Mike became a member of my Mechanical Engineering Research Group which was formed at that time. After successive re-organisations, I have had no further line-management role with respect to Mike but we have continued to work together at Leatherhead until the present time.

Mike progressively took on more responsibility for experimental testing, including sole responsibility for the Long Tensile Test Facility, heavy-current rig and other mechanical test equipment. This equipment is used to carry out tests to British and National Grid Standards, for studying new conductors and fittings and for investigating design and service problems. Mike oversaw the installation of new computerised control systems for the first of these two facilities. He also designed package of meteorological instrumentation and date logging equipment to be mounted on transmission towers for telemetering data back to the Leatherhead Laboratories. This package has been central to our studies of overhead line power ratings, and numbers of them have been used with great success all over the country.

Mike has an extensive knowledge of many software packages and has spent much of his own time in developing these skills, he shows a natural aptitude for working with them. He was one of the first people at National Grid to come to grips with the Internet and he has extensive experience with it.

In 1992, Mike's partner died, leaving him with two daughters aged five and seven. He has brought up his daughters as a single parent and they are a credit to him. Mike commands great respect among his colleagues for what he has achieved as a parent.

Mike has strong musical talents and has for many years organised and managed various samba bands and groups with a South American flavour. His bands have performed to local acclaim at many events in and around Dorking and at significant social venues such as Hurlingham and the Albert Hall.

In conclusion, Mike has a strong character. He is honest, reliable and capable. He will always give very careful consideration to what he is being asked to do and, once convinced of its value, will commit himself very strongly to carrying it out to the best of his ability. I commend him to you unreservedly.

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