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Forestry Programme 2014 -
2020

Innovative Forest Technology Scheme - Central Tyre Inflation



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1 Introduction to the Innovative Forest Technology Scheme

The objectives of the Innovative Forest Technology measure of the Forestry Programme 2014-2020 is to encourage the introduction and adoption of new technologies in Ireland's forestry sector.

The measure will support private forest holders, producer groups and forestry contractors to procure and develop innovative technologies for use in the management of private forests in Ireland. It is primarily aimed at new smaller scale technologies which have yet to be widely used in Irish conditions but which have the potential to contribute to the economic viability of the private forest sector, especially small dispersed forests, while minimising or eliminating negative environmental and social impacts arising from forest operations.

Conventional harvesting and processing technologies, including equipment used to harvest and process biofuels, will not be eligible under the measure. However, consideration may be given to small scale technologies which can be used in areas where conventional machinery is not appropriate or suitable, such as small remote forests, sensitive soils and in environmentally sensitive areas.

Periodically, over the duration of the Forestry Programme 2014-2020 ending on 31st December 2020, and subject to the availability of funds, the Department proposes to introduce a number targeted modules under the Innovative Forest Technology Scheme. These modules may be targeted at specific types of technologies in order to address specific deficits identified in the sector.

The first such targeted module is

- **Central Tyre Inflation (CTI)**

This document sets out the terms and conditions of the Central Tyre Inflation module under the Innovative Forest Technology Scheme, a measure described in the Forestry Programme 2014-2020.

This document has been prepared to ensure that applicants for the Scheme are aware of the requirements and conditions under the Scheme and to assist potential applicants in completing applications for the Scheme.

Applicants will be required to sign a declaration that they understand the Terms and Conditions outlined in this document and will fully comply with them.

This document should be read in conjunction with

- National Forest Standard;
- Code of Best Forest Practice – Ireland;
- Forestry Environmental Guidelines;

- Forest Road Manual (COFORD 2004);
- Managing Timber Transport, A Good Practice Guide (Forest Industry Transport Group, 2014)

and any relevant Circulars issued by the Department.

1.1 Legal Basis

The Innovative Technology Scheme - Central Tyre Inflation module is operated pursuant to the European Commission's State Aid Approval (Ref No. SG-Greffe (2015) D/1056/7) for the Forestry Programme 2014-2020 (Measure 9: Innovative Forest Technology)

The Scheme is wholly funded by the Exchequer under State Aid rules as outlined in the *European Guidelines for State aid in the agriculture and forestry sector and in rural areas 2014 – 2020 (2014/C 204/01)*.

The Scheme shall be administered and operated by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

1.2 Background – Central Tyre Inflation (CTI)

There have been a number of technical developments in the timber transport sector in recent years aimed at increasing the efficiency and compliance of timber transport and reducing damage to road infrastructure both within the forest and on the public road.

The Forest Industry Transport Group (FITG) published the *Managing Timber Transport Good Practice Guide in 2014*. This publication provides advice on resolving timber transport issues for local authorities, timber hauliers and forest owners in Ireland. One of the recommendations of the FITG is that further research should be carried out to explore the possibility of linking on-board weighing and central tyre inflation systems to tracking systems to enable real time monitoring of compliance. Research from the ROADEX Project has also shown that the use of CTI systems is beneficial to reducing damage on surfaced and unbounded forest roads.

The adoption of CTI technologies in Ireland's timber transport sector can contribute to achieving this recommendation.

1.3 Objectives

The objective of the Central Tyre Inflation (CTI) module is to stimulate investment by timber haulage operators in CTI systems.

CTI technologies can provide multiple benefits to vehicle operators, forest owners and public road authorities.

Central tyre inflation systems allow vehicle operators to electronically select the most suitable tyre pressure for the particular vehicle operation and/or driving surface from the cab while the vehicle is in motion. For example, when operating on forest roads

or local (public) roads, CTI systems allow vehicle operators to reduce tyre pressure, which increases the tyre contact with the road surface and distributes the vehicle weight over a larger surface area, thereby reducing surface damage. Regular tyre pressure monitoring ensures that tyres operate to optimum inflation, reducing tyre wear. The systems also contribute to health and safety by reducing vehicle vibration, thereby reducing driver stress and fatigue. Reduced vibration can also reduce vehicle maintenance costs by reducing vehicle stress.

2 Scheme Description

2.1 Definitions

“*Central Tyre Inflation Systems*” means a system that allows vehicle operators to electronically select the most suitable tyre pressure for the particular vehicle operation and/or driving surface from the cab while the vehicle is in motion. Also known as also known as variable tyre pressure (VTP) and tyre pressure control (TPC) systems.

“*Date of Application*” means the date the application is received at the offices of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford

“*Department*” means the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine.

“*Eligible vehicle*” means a heavy commercial vehicle (HCV) described in the following table and used predominantly for the transport of roundwood timber. Vehicles may have cranes attached.

Description	Maximum weight
Rigid + drawbar 6 or 7 axle (3+3, 4+2 or 4+3)	Up to 46 tonnes
Rigid 3 axle	Up to 26 tonnes
Rigid 4 axle	Up to 32 tonnes
Articulated 6 axle	Up to 46 tonnes
Articulated 5 axle	Up to 42 tonnes

“*Forest Service*” means the Forestry Division of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

“*Forestry Environmental Guidelines*” means the following publications as amended from time-to-time: *Forestry and Water Quality Guidelines*; *Forestry and Landscape Guidelines*; *Forestry and Archaeology Guidelines*; *Forest Biodiversity Guidelines*; *Forest Harvesting and the Environment Guidelines*; *Forestry Protection Guidelines*; *Forestry and Otter Guidelines*, *Forestry and Kerry Slug Guidelines*, and *Forestry and*

Freshwater Pearl Mussel Requirements. The Minister may, from time to time, amend the guidelines or add further guidelines to this definition.

‘*Grantee*’ means the grant applicant to whom a grant is payable, whether or not the grant is paid to the grant applicant directly or is paid to another person with the consent of the grant applicant.

‘*Minister*’ means the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

‘*Scheme*’ means the Innovative Forest Technology Scheme and associated modules such as the Central Tyre Inflation module under the Innovative Forest Technology measure of the Forestry Programme 2014-2020

2.2 Funding and Financing

The CTI module shall provide grant aid to timber transport operators to acquire and fit CTI systems on heavy commercial vehicles (“eligible vehicles”) involved in the transport of roundwood timber in Ireland.

Grant aid will only be paid on approved, completed and eligible expenditure and shall not exceed 40% of total eligible expenditure (excluding VAT), to a maximum of €10,000 per vehicle.

Where the number of applications exceeds the available budget, eligible applications will be ranked and selected based on the criteria listed in Section 3.2.

Applicants will be required to submit on the application form all details as listed

Beneficiaries of the Scheme may be required to furnish a report to the Minister detailing the success or otherwise of the investment. This report may include inter alia details such as quantity of timber hauled using CTI, areas and roads where CTI was used and general feedback on the benefits of such technologies. The Department may also from time to time identify pilot study areas and successful applicants hauling timber within these areas will be required to provide information and feedback on the timber hauled and participate in questionnaires aimed at establishing the success of the grant aided measure.

2.3 Commencement of the Scheme

The Scheme shall come into operation on 21st October 2016 and shall remain open subject to available budgets and at the discretion of the Minister.

The Minister reserves the right to alter or amend the operation dates for the Scheme.

The Scheme shall operate throughout the State.

2.4 Eligibility

The Scheme is open to timber transport operators who

- (i) Are resident in the State; and
- (ii) Have been actively operating in the timber transport sector for a minimum of 2 years (24 months); and
- (iii) Is the registered owner of the eligible vehicle(s) upon which the CTI system is to be fitted (vehicles acquired by way of hire purchase agreements shall not be eligible) or leased vehicles where there is a minimum of 5 years to run from date of application to the scheme.
- (iv) Are classified as SME's as defined in Annex I of Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014)
- (v) The trucks proposed for CTI must be used predominately for the transport of timber

Eligible vehicles must be registered in the State.

Applications may be made by individuals or corporate entities.

Where an applicant, either alone or in combination with a connected entity¹, owns two (2) or more eligible vehicles, support shall not be provided for more than two (2) eligible vehicles if the total number of valid applications exceeds the available budget in any year. Each vehicle must have a separate application.

Only expenditure on new equipment will be eligible for grant aid. Expenditure on secondhand equipment will not be eligible.

The grant aided equipment shall not be acquired by means of a lease or hire purchase agreement and shall not be used as security against any loan secured for its purchase.

The grant aided equipment shall not be acquired prior to the date of acceptance of the Grant Offer.

No other application for financial assistance towards the purchase of the equipment shall be made to any other State Agency.

Individuals applying for participation in the scheme must be over 18 years of age and must provide a Personal Public Service Number (PPSN).

¹ An entity is connected with another entity if the same person(s) has control of both, or if a person has control of one and a person(s) connected with him or her, has control of the other.

Corporate bodies (including companies, charities, trusts, partnerships etc.) must provide a company registration number, tax number or charity (CHY) number, as applicable. Applicants who are registered for VAT must also supply their VAT number.

Participation in the scheme is voluntary.

2.5 Allowable costs and grant rates

Eligible costs shall be the purchase price of the CTI system, inclusive of fitting and, where required, upgrading to “Maxi” wide tyres (455/22.5R/45), or twin wheels and tyres exclusive of VAT.

Grant support shall not exceed **€10,000** or an amount not greater than 40% of the eligible expenditure per unit (exclusive of VAT), whichever is the lesser.

Beneficiaries shall make satisfactory arrangements for provision of the balance of the expenditure required to complete the investment and will be required to furnish documentary evidence of expenditure before any grant payment can be approved.

Beneficiaries may, where appropriate, be subject to audit and/or inspection by the Minister, or her/his representatives, before final payment.

2.5.1 Specifications

The following specifications are required for CTI systems installed for grant aid under this scheme

1. A truck with a CTI that draws air from the vehicle’s compressed air system must have a warning system to alert the driver to a loss of air pressure in the primary compressed air and auxiliary systems; and ultimately shut off the air supply to the CTI if the pressure falls below a safe level for the primary air system.
2. A truck equipped with a CTI must have visual and audible alarms that alert the driver when the vehicle’s speed exceeds the safe operational speed specified by the tyres manufacturer or vehicle manufacture for:
 - (a) the load and inflation pressure; and
 - (b) the tyres and rims.
3. A CTI System must start inflating the tyres automatically within one minute of the onset of a continuous over speed alarm indication and be capable of reaching:
 - (a) a minimum level of 75% of the tyres manufacturer’s or vehicle manufacturer’s recommended cold inflation pressure for the actual speed and load within 15 minutes of the initiation of inflation; and

- (b) 100% of the tyres manufacturer's or vehicle manufacturer's recommended cold inflation pressure for the actual speed and load within 25 minutes of the initiation of inflation.
4. A truck operating with a CTI must have visual and audible alarms that alert the driver when tyre pressures fall by more than 20 psi (138kPa) below any programmed pressure setting. The minimum operating pressure shall be not less than 30 psi (207 kPa).
 5. A truck that is equipped with warning systems relating to tyre inflation or deflation may be operated only if the warning systems are in working order.
 6. Systems must have pre-set (programmed) settings that are determined by qualified personnel following tyre manufacturer's recommendations for the vehicle's tyres, loads and speeds. Drivers MUST NOT be able to select their own pressure set points, as would be the case with manually controlled systems.
 7. The hoses to inflate the drive wheels must be within the limits of all other essential projections on the lorry body.
 8. A CTI system, must have the capability to provide data to other data log computers to demonstrate and ensure compliance with conditions that may be applied by statutory authorities in certain circumstances
 9. The CTI system shall be fitted to all axles of vehicle, including the trailer, except the front steering axle. Fitting the CTI system to the front steering axle is not permitted.
 10. The vehicle shall be fitted with either "Maxi" wide tyres (455/22.5R/45) or twin wheels and tyres upon fitting of the CTI system, with the exception of the front steering axle which may be fitted with "Super single" tyres (385/22.5R/45). All of the tyres fitted to an individual lorry shall be from a single manufacturer. The tyres must be accompanied by a pressure / speed table.
 11. The CTI system shall be installed by an authorised agent / distributor of the system and a certificate of installation by the approved agent / distributor shall be completed. All CTI systems shall be of proprietary manufacture. The authorised agent / distributor shall be on the Department's accepted list of authorised installers of CTI systems.

In summary, all above primary (1 - 6) operational and safety features must be integrated with the CTI system to minimize the responsibility of the driver and provide the necessary protection to the vehicle and tyres.

2.6 Procedures

The Minister shall lay down the procedures to be followed in the operation of the Scheme and reserves the right to alter these procedures (including the marking criteria used for the purposes of assessment of applications) from time to time. The Minister may at any time lay down further conditions under the scheme.

2.7 Review of Terms and Conditions

The Minister reserves the right to restrict the availability of the scheme and to vary, where occasion so demands, the amount of financial aid wherever specified in the scheme subject at all times to the provisions of any relevant European Union legislation.

The Minister reserves the right to alter the Terms and Conditions of the Scheme. Revisions to the Scheme cannot be applied to previous versions of the Scheme particularly any additional investment(s).

3 Application process

3.1 Application for Approval

Applications for approval will only be accepted on the official Innovative Forest Technologies Scheme -Central Tyre Inflation Module Approval Application Form 1 and completed in accordance with guidelines outlined therein.

Applications must be submitted to the Approvals Section, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford and marked "Central Tyre Inflation Module" on the envelope.

Applications received during periods to be determined by the Minister will be assessed in accordance with the criteria laid down. Where a valid application does not receive approval in the course of the first assessment or tranche which is carried out by the Minister after the receipt of the valid application, the application will be carried forward to any subsequent assessment(s) or tranche, unless withdrawn by the applicant. The first tranche will open on 21st October 2016 and close on 6th January 2017. Subsequent tranches will run every three months until the scheme is formally closed by the Minister.

All applications must be accompanied by the following documentation:

- Certificate of Incorporation and, where applicable, Certificate of Business Name Registration
- Certificate of Professional Competence

The following documents must be submitted in respect of each vehicle for which a grant is being sought:

- Vehicle Registration Certificate
- Valid Certificate of Roadworthiness (CRW)
- Quotation for the proposed investment;

Incomplete applications, including applications which are not accompanied by the documentation listed above, and applications received after the applicable closing date if specified, will be rejected and returned to the applicant.

All fully completed applications will be acknowledged by the Department. If an applicant does not receive an acknowledgment within 2 weeks, the applicant should contact the Forest Service.

3.2 Project Evaluation and Selection

Applications will be evaluated according to a 2-step process set out below. In the event that the number of applications exceeds the available budget the scoring criteria as identified in Step 3 will be applied. Applicants must be fully aware of the requirements of the Scheme to avoid the submission of unsuitable or ineligible applications.

Step 1: Document check

The first step will involve a document check to ensure that the application is valid and complete and provides all the information requested in the Application Form, and information mentioned in Section 3.1 above.

At Step 1, applications will be assessed on a PASS/FAIL basis.

Applications which pass Step 1 will be put forward for consideration under Step 2.

Step 2: Project assessment

Applications which pass Step 1 will be put forward for consideration under Step 2 which will involve a detailed assessment to determine if the proposed project complies with the objectives of the Scheme, as outlined herein, and that the project complies with specifications as outlined at section 2.5.1, is technically feasible and deliverable and that the cost and funding structure is realistic.

At Step 2, applications will be assessed on a PASS/FAIL basis.

Applications which pass Step 2 will be put forward for consideration under Step 3.

Applications which fail Step 2 will not be eligible for consideration under Step 3.

Step 3: Scoring of criteria

Applications which successfully pass Steps 1 and 2 will be eligible for the scheme. However in the event that the scheme is oversubscribed and budgetary considerations limit the number of applications that can be grant aided the following scoring and evaluation criteria will apply.:

Criteria	Maximum marks available
(a) Rigid and Trailer with working crane fitted = 150 marks Articulated lorry with working crane fitted = 80 marks Rigid with working crane fitted = 40 marks Vehicles without working crane = 0 marks	150
(b) Value for Money: The cost of the proposed investment. Eligible applications will be ranked in order based on the lowest total price i.e. lowest cost = 150 marks , 2 nd lowest 140= marks, 3 rd lowest =130 marks etc.	150
(c) All fitted with CTI All 6 axles fitted with CTI, excluding front steering axle= 150 marks 5 axles fitted with CTI, excluding front steering axle= 120 marks 4 axles fitted with CTI, excluding front steering axle= 100 marks	150
(d) Age of truck at time of application to be fitted Less than or equal to 1 year old = 150 marks Greater than 1 year old and less than 2 years old = 130 marks Greater than 2 years old and less than 3 years old = 110 marks Greater than 3 years old and less than 4 years old = 90 marks Greater than 4 years old and less than 5 years old = 70 marks Greater than 5 years old and less than 6 years old = 50 marks Greater than 6 years old and less than 7 years old = 40 marks Greater than 7 years old and less than 8 years old = 30 marks Greater than 8 years old and less than 9 years old = 20 marks Greater than 9 years old and less than 10 years old = 10 marks Greater than 10 year old = 0 marks	150
Total Marks	600

Applications will be selected based on the highest total scores received against the available budget. The score will be based on the combined score for each application as per criteria (a) to (d) inclusive as outlined above.

3.3 Grant Offer

Eligibility under the Scheme does not guarantee that a Grant Offer will be made. The number of projects that receive a Grant Offer will be determined by the available budget at the time. Where the value of eligible projects exceeds the budget available, the highest scoring applications will receive the first grant offers as outline in the scoring criteria in Step 3.

Applicants who receive a Grant Offer will be required to enter a **Grant Offer Agreement** (Appendix A) with the Minister.

Applicants who wish to accept the Grant Offer must sign and return the Grant Offer Agreement to the Department within 21 days.

A Grant Offer may be withdrawn:

- (a) if the offer is not accepted, in writing, by the applicant within 21 days from the date of the offer, or
- (b) at the discretion of the Minister.

Upon receipt of the signed Grant Offer Agreement, the Department will write to the applicant to confirm the Grant Offer and inform the applicant of the date by which the investment must be completed and the date by which the Grant Application must be received by the Department.

3.4 Application for Grant Payment

The grant will be paid in one single instalment. Applications for payment shall be made using the *Innovation Technology Scheme - Central Tyre Inflation Grant Payment Application Form 2* and shall be accompanied by the following documentation:

- Original receipts/invoices and proof of payment
- Motor Tax Certificate
- Tax Clearance Certificate
- Vehicle Registration Certificate
- Certificate of Roadworthiness (CRW)
- Letter from competent person verifying that the CTI has been properly fitted in accordance with the manufactures instruction and has been successfully commissioned

Grant-aid will not be paid unless the equipment or investment is fully fitted and operational to the specifications detailed in the application; and full ownership thereof has been transferred to the applicant prior to submission of the application for grant

payment. Full ownership means when the applicant has fully paid for the equipment or investment. The Minister may request proof of ownership.

Unless otherwise agreed in advance with the Department, the equipment must be purchased and ready for operation within a period of three (3) months from the date the Grant Offer is accepted.

Unless otherwise agreed with the Department, the Form 2 application for grant payment, including all the required documentation, must be received by the Department within four (4) months from the date the Grant Offer Agreement is signed by the Applicant.

Failure to complete the investment or failure to submit a valid Form 2 Application (including required documents) within the applicable timeframes may result in the Grant Offer being withdrawn.

Any grant payment not applied for by the applicant in accordance with the Scheme and/or not approved for payment by the expiry of the contract may be forfeited at the discretion of the Minister. The Minister reserves the right to forfeit the payment on the basis of non-compliance with the Contract or the terms and conditions of the Scheme.

All payments will be made directly to the grant beneficiary by Electric Fund Transfer (EFT) directly to the beneficiaries bank account. Grant beneficiaries must be registered on the Department's Corporate Customer System (CCS) before grant payment can be made. The requirements for registration on CSS are further outlined in Section 3.6.

All grants paid under this Scheme will be exclusive of VAT.

3.5 Requirement for receipts

All applications for grant payment must be accompanied by receipts/invoices.

All receipts/invoices submitted must only include items relevant to the investment that received approval. Cash payments are ineligible unless the proof of payment can be supported by alternative documentary evidence (see below for more details).

All receipts/invoices should be original, should be on headed paper and should include the name, address and VAT number of the supplier/contractor (if registered). In addition, the receipt must include:

- a) Name and address of the applicant (purchaser);
- b) Date and number of the receipt/invoice;
- c) Details of purchase in an itemised form including the make, model, serial number of the item(s), where applicable;
- d) Cost of each item, excluding VAT;

- e) Total VAT amount paid on the receipt/invoice;
- f) Amount of discount, if any.
- g) In the case of receipts/invoices comprising of both goods and service (supply and fit), there must be a breakdown between the categories.

Alternatively, an original receipt/invoice which is (i) marked paid and signed and dated by an employee/agent of the supplier, and (ii) contains the details set out at (a) - (g) above, is also acceptable.

Where the receipt/invoice is not denominated in Euro, evidence of the exchange rate used for the purposes of payment must also be provided

Receipts/invoices submitted must be in the name of the applicant, or in the case of partnerships a) the partnership name or b) at least one individual in the partnership.

Where the applicant is a company, receipts/invoices submitted must be in the name of that company or company director.

Original documents will be returned as soon as possible by the Department after payment has been approved in respect of the investment(s) concerned or until all queries relating thereto have been resolved to the satisfaction of the Department.

Receipts must show the serial number(s) of the equipment concerned.

The Department reserves the right to request alternative evidence with regard to any invoice/receipt submitted with a payment claim directly from the applicant or from a third party. If required, an applicant must submit proofs of payment that are acceptable to the Department. These proofs will consist of copies of bank statements showing relevant entries and /or copies of the two sides of the cashed cheques. Alternatively, online bank statements (only high quality colour printouts with bank logo) with copies of the cashed cheques will be acceptable, or if payment is made by direct credit transfer and copies of original bank statement or online bank statement listing payments to the supplier must be submitted. Amounts listed on bank statements must be clearly linked to the relevant item on which grant aid is claimed.

3.6 Grant payment

All payments will be made directly to the grant beneficiary by Electric Fund Transfer (EFT) directly to the beneficiaries bank account.

Grant beneficiaries must be registered on the Department's Corporate Customer System before grant payment can be approved.

Beneficiaries who are not already registered on the Department's Corporate Customer System (CCS) will be required to complete a CCS Customer Registration Form and the Bank Authorisation Form. These forms will be provided to beneficiaries by the Department before any payments are made.

To enable registration on the Department's Corporate Customer System:

- (a) individual applicants must hold a PPS number and/or VAT number.
- (b) corporate applicants (including charities, trusts, partnerships etc.) must hold a VAT number and/or CRO number.

Any grant payments not applied for by the applicant in accordance with the Scheme and/or not approved for payment by the expiry of the contract may be forfeited at the discretion of the Minister. The Minister reserves the right to forfeit any payments on the basis of non-compliance with the Contract or the terms and conditions of the Scheme.

Interest is payable on all debts raised at the appropriate rate.

4 Grant Offer Agreement

4.1 Duration of Contract

The contract period under the Innovative Technology Scheme - Central Tyre Inflation, as specified in the Grant Offer Agreement, shall be 5 years commencing on the date the grant is paid.

Where circumstances exist that may require an extension of the contract term, the expiry date of a contract may be extended at the discretion of the Minister.

4.2 Restrictions on use and disposal of equipment

The equipment shall be used only by the Grantee for the purposes outlined in the grant application and shall be used only within the State and Northern Ireland and shall not, without the written consent of the Minister, be exported, sold or otherwise disposed of by the Grantee within five (5) years from the date of payment of the grant.

4.3 Termination of Contract

The contract may be terminated in the following circumstances:

1. Where the investment is not completed to the satisfaction of the Minister within the agreed timeframe, or
2. Where the conditions attached to the grant offer are not complied with, or
3. Following an inspection, the Department decides to terminate the contract for reasons to be specified in the contract termination letter, or
4. If there is a material change in the Grantee's proposal which forms the basis of the application made for the grant, or

5. Where an Order is made, or an effective resolution is passed, for the winding up of the operation of the Grantee or if the Grantee should pass a resolution for voluntary winding up (other than by way of amalgamation or reconstruction), or
6. If the Grantee commits an act of bankruptcy or is adjudicated bankrupt or makes an arrangement with his or her creditors or if a Receiver is appointed or distress or execution is levied or threatened upon the said equipment or any part thereof or if any judgement against the Grantee remains unsatisfied for more than fourteen days.

If the grant is revoked by the Minister, the Grantee shall repay to the Minister all sums received in respect of the grant, or so much thereof as the Minister may determine, in accordance with the provisions set out in the Grant Offer Agreement.

The Minister will give twenty-one (21) days notice of his intention to act on the grounds referred to at (1), (2), (3) and (4) above. The revocation shall be effective at the end of the period of notice unless the situation which has given rise to the Minister's intention to revoke the grant has been resolved to the Minister's satisfaction.

5 Taxation Requirements

It is a condition of grant aid that all projects and activities shall be conducted in compliance with the laws of the State relating to, *inter alia*, tax and employment.

a) **Tax Clearance:**

Payment of grant aid may be subject to the condition that a Tax Clearance Certificate from the Revenue Commissioners be furnished by the beneficiary before a payment is issued.

b) **Value Added Tax:**

Applicants and their Agents shall comply with all requirements of VAT law. All grant payments under the Scheme will be made net of VAT, regardless of the applicants VAT status.

6 Inspection by the Department

6.1 Compliance inspection

The Minister, or her/his representatives, shall be entitled to carry out inspections on approved works and equipment and all records relating to investments funded under the Scheme including invoices, receipts and bank records, at any reasonable time.

Applicants found not to be in compliance with the terms and conditions of the Scheme may be liable to penalties or sanctions.

6.2 Right of entry

The Department reserves the right to carry out inspections at all reasonable times of any land, premises, plant, equipment and records of applicants or beneficiaries of the Scheme. The Minister reserves the right to reject an application for approval or for grant payment if the applicant or beneficiary interferes with or prevents an inspection being carried out.

7 State Aid requirements

7.1 The Incentive Effect

Small to medium sized enterprises (SMEs) (as defined in Annex I of Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014) must confirm and declare on the Innovative Forest Technology Scheme Application Form that:

“The work described herein, would not have been undertaken if it was not for the financial support provided under State Aid rules. Without this aid, there would be no change to current activities.”

8 General conditions

8.1 General rules

All projects approved under the Forest Innovative Technologies Scheme -Central Tyre Inflation shall be carried out in compliance with:

- the specific scheme requirements set out in this document;
- Grant Offer Agreement;
- any relevant Circulars issued by the Department, and
- any additional conditions attached to the Letter of Approval, as laid down by the Minister.

8.2 Adequacy of the investment

The approval of an application or the payment of a grant under the Scheme does not imply acceptance by the Minister of any responsibility regarding the adequacy of the investment for its purpose or the quality or suitability of the investment.

Responsibility for the success of the investment rests solely with the applicant and any third party supplier involved, and the Department will not accept any liability whatsoever, in whole or in part, if the investment is not successful.

The Minister will not intervene in disputes between the applicants and third party suppliers.

8.3 Penalties

Penalties may apply at the discretion of the Minister and may include withholding payment (whole or part) of the grant.

8.4 Review of decisions

Applicants may request a review of a decision of the Minister regarding an application under this Scheme. Requests for a review should be made in writing, giving detailed grounds for the review, to the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford.

8.5 Publicity

Support under the Central Tyre Inflation measure must be acknowledged on all information boards, leaflets, booklets, posters, websites, press releases, press articles, etc. relating to the project, using the following wording:

“This project is supported by the Innovative Forest Technology Scheme - Central Tyre Inflation, funded by the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine, under the Forestry Programme 2014-2020.”

This wording must also be accompanied by the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine logo (electronic version available from the Forest Service).

The above wording and Department logo must be prominent and legible, and of the same scale as that used for other listed funding sources and project partners.

Support under the Forest Innovative Technologies Scheme -Central Tyre Inflation must also be acknowledged during all related interviews for print and electronic media, radio and TV.

8.6 Insurance

The Minister may require the Grantee to keep the equipment insured with an Insurance Company regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland against theft, loss or damage for an amount approved by the Minister and if there should be any such damage or loss, the entire compensation received by the Grantee shall be used to restore or replace the equipment and any deficiency will be made good by the Grantee. Evidence of such insurance shall be furnished to the Minister upon request.

The grant beneficiary is responsible for all issues surrounding safety and public liability in relation to projects receiving funding under the Central Tyre Inflation Scheme. The Grantee shall indemnify and hold harmless the Minister against all and any action, expenses, costs, claims, demands and any other liabilities whatsoever in respect of the death of or injury to any person or damage to any property whatsoever arising out of the use of the equipment.

8.7 Health & Safety

The Grantee shall satisfy the Minister that all operatives engaged in the operation of the equipment are adequately trained with regard to operation of the equipment in question and health and safety and that the equipment is kept in good and substantial repair and condition (reasonable wear and tear only excepted).

8.8 Information and data protection

The Department reserves the right to make information regarding the Forest Innovative Technology Scheme -Central Tyre Inflation available to the public, subject to the provisions of the Data Protection Acts 1998 and 2003. Information supplied to the Department may be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Acts 1997 and 2003.

If an applicant considers that any information supplied to the Department is either confidential or commercially sensitive, the Applicant should identify such information when submitting an application, and specify the reasons for its sensitivity. The Department will consult with the applicant about this information before making any decision in relation to requests received by the Department under the Freedom of Information Acts.

8.9 Failure to abide by the terms and conditions of the scheme

Where, for the purposes of obtaining a grant payment under this Scheme, the applicant or a person acting on his or her behalf, knowingly makes a false or misleading statement or declaration or withholds essential information, the applicants participation in the scheme may be terminated and any grant(s) paid shall be reimbursed to the Minister.

Where an Applicant or a person acting on his or her behalf, fails to abide by the terms and conditions of the Scheme, or where there is any material change in the circumstances of the applicant which would be in conflict with the spirit of the scheme, the applicants participation in the scheme may be terminated and any grant(s) paid shall be reimbursed to the Minister. The obtaining of grant aid under the Scheme by fraudulent means by the applicant or a person acting on his or her behalf, or others acting alone or together, may render such persons liable to prosecution.

8.10 Review of procedures and grant aid

The Minister reserves the right to alter the procedures and conditions to be followed in the operation of this Scheme. Notice of such alterations shall be posted on the Department's website. The Minister also reserves the right to review and vary, where the occasion so demands, the amount of financial aid specified in the scheme.

**Forest Service,
Department of Agriculture, Food the Marine
Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford.
Tel: (053) 9160200 or (053) 9160201
Fax: (053) 9143836**

Appendix A

CENTRAL TYRE INFLATION SCHEME

GRANT OFFER AGREEMENT

The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine (herein called the Minister) hereby offers

[Name]_____ of

[Address]_____

(herein called the Grantee) a maximum grant of € _____ euro or an amount equivalent to _____% of the actual cost of the completed investment (whichever is the lesser) to be made by the Grantee in the purchase of _____ (the Equipment) subject to the conditions set out below.

1. Qualifying Expenditure

The Grantee will expend € _____ euro (excluding V.A.T) on the acquisition of equipment, particulars of which are set out in the First Schedule hereto (herein called the Equipment).

2. Balance of Capital/Financing Arrangements

The Grantee will make satisfactory arrangements for provision of the balance of capital required to meet such expenditure. The equipment will not be used as security against any loan raised for its purchase. Nor may purchase of the equipment be arranged by means of a hire purchase agreement. No other application for financial assistance towards the purchase of the equipment shall be made by the Grantee to any other State Agency.

3. Equipment etc.

Expenditure on the equipment which has been purchased new will be regarded as qualifying for grant purposes. Expenditure on secondhand goods will not qualify.

4. Time Limits

The offer of a grant will lapse if not formally accepted by the Grantee within twenty-one (21) days of the date on which the offer is made. The equipment will not have been purchased or leased prior to the date of acceptance of the offer.

The equipment will be purchased and ready for operation within a period of three (3) months from the date of acceptance of the offer and the Minister will, within that period, be furnished with evidence of such purchase having been made.

The application for grant payment will be furnished to the Minister within the period of four (4) months from the date of acceptance of the offer

5. Restrictions

The equipment shall not, without the consent in writing of the Minister, be sold or otherwise disposed of by the Grantee within five (5) years from the date of payment of the grant. The equipment will be used by the Grantee only for the purposes outlined in the grant application.

6. Insurance

The equipment will be kept insured against theft, loss or damage with an Insurance Company regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland and for an amount approved by the Minister and, if there should be any such damage or loss, the

entire compensation received by the Grantee shall be used to restore the equipment and any deficiency will be made good by the Grantee. The Grantee will furnish the Minister before payment of the grant with documentary evidence of the machine having been insured against theft, loss or damage and will produce to the Minister on demand the receipt or receipts for the payment of the last premium therefor.

7. Indemnity

The Grantee shall indemnify and hold harmless the Minister against all and any action, expenses, costs, claims, demands and any other liabilities whatsoever in respect of the death of or injury to any person or damage to any property whatsoever arising out of the use of the equipment.

8. Development/Administration

The Grantee shall satisfy the Minister that the operatives engaged in the operation of the equipment are adequately trained with regard to production and safety and that the equipment is kept in good and substantial repair and condition (reasonable wear and tear only excepted).

9 Tax Affairs

This offer is conditional on the Grantee producing a Tax Clearance Certificate from the Revenue Commissioners which is current when payment of the grant is sought.

10. Inspection

The Minister shall be entitled to inspect the equipment at any time and at any location, if he or she so desires.

11. Payment of Grant

The Grant will not be paid until these Conditions of Offer have been complied with and all expenditure claimed to have been made has been vouched to the satisfaction of the Minister

12. Revocation

The Minister, at any time within five years from the date of payment of the grant, may revoke the grant on the happening of any of the following:-

- (i) If any of the conditions herein contained are not complied with.
- (ii) If there should be a material change in the Grantee's proposal which forms the basis of the application made for the grant.
- (iii) If an Order is made or an effective resolution is passed for the winding up of the operation of the Grantee.
- (iv) If a winding-up Order shall be made against the Grantee or if the Grantee should pass a resolution for voluntary winding up (other than by way of amalgamation or reconstruction) or if being a person shall commit an act of bankruptcy or be adjudicated bankrupt or shall make an arrangement with his or her creditors or if a Receiver shall be appointed or distress or execution shall be levied or threatened upon the said equipment or any part thereof or if any judgement against the Grantee shall remain unsatisfied for more than fourteen days.

The Minister shall give twenty-one (21) days notice of his intention to act on the grounds referred to at (i) and (ii) above. The revocation shall be effective at the end of the period of notice unless the situation which has given rise to the Minister's intention to revoke the grant has been resolved to the Minister's satisfaction.

13. Repayment

If the grant should be revoked by the Minister under the provisions hereof, the Grantee will repay to the Minister, within such period as the Minister may specify, all sums received in respect of the grant, or so much thereof as the Minister may determine, that in default of such repayment, such sums shall be recoverable by the Minister as a simple contract debt in a Court of competent jurisdiction.

14. General Conditions

- (i) These conditions of offer shall remain in force for a period of five (5) years from the date of payment of a grant.
- (ii) Payment of the grant is subject to availability of funds.
- (iii) The Grantee shall ensure that all operations involving the equipment are undertaken in compliance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- (iv) In any dispute which may arise on the interpretation of these conditions, the decision of the Minister shall be final and binding.
- (v) These Conditions shall be governed by Irish Law and shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Irish Courts.

FIRST SCHEDULE

Description of Equipment	Maximum Estimated Cost (excluding VAT)	Percentage Grant
MAKE MODEL SERIAL No. Detailed list of accessories:		

ACCEPTANCE

I/We _____

hereby accept the offer of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine and agree to be bound by the conditions set out herein.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2016

Signed by the said _____ of

in the presence of:

Witness

