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New impellers to cut pump costs

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By June 2011, impellers for centrifugal pumps in difficult applications should be cheaper and better optimised.

Specialist pumps manufacturer Amarith is heading a project, funded by a £160,000 grant from the Carbon Trust, to develop a rapid process for design and manufacture of bespoke best efficiency point (BEP) impellers.

The project, with Furniss & White (Foundries) and Pera Innovations, aims to reduce design lead time by 25% and foundry pattern costs by 90%, and promises lead times of under a week.

Amarith managing director Oliver Briggshaw believes the impellers will reduce energy by 10–25%, compared to conventional ‘fit-to-curve’ pumps.

That figure may be higher, given that about 50% of pumps operate between 10% and 40% away from BEP, despite best performance curve matching.