

20 November 2012

Engineers Australia announces national engineering excellence awards project winners

Engineers Australia has tonight recognised eight projects for engineering excellence at the 2012 Australian Engineering Excellence Awards, an annual event held in the Great Hall of Parliament House, Canberra.

Woodside's **Pluto LNG Project** has received the highest honour, winning the Sir William Hudson Award for engineering excellence presented by Snowy Hydro Ltd. Located 190km out into the Indian Ocean north-west of Karratha, Western Australia, the project transfers natural gas to a new Liquefied Natural Gas Plant located onshore on the Burrup Peninsula. The converted gas to liquid form allows for more efficient transportation.

"The magnitude of the **Pluto LNG Project** entered by Woodside is impressive, particularly given the remoteness of its location," Mr Ian Pedersen, Chair of the National Engineering Excellence Awards National Judging Panel for Engineers Australia said.

"This project demonstrated outstanding safety standards in its application and has engaged every discipline of engineering. The **Pluto LNG Project** stamps leadership in the design and production of offshore gas facilities for Australia, allowing us to compete in the global market," Mr Pedersen said.

The Engineering Innovation Award –presented by AusIndustry– was awarded to the **CSIRO Ngara Rural Point to Point Microwave Backhaul Technology** project. Entered by the CSIRO, the technology proposes the world's fastest wireless broadband to rural areas with reduced deployment costs.

"The technology in this project is estimated to be almost ten times faster in delivering high speed broadband to rural communities via a wireless network and provides an alternate cost effective solution to fibreoptic cabling in delivering high speed broadband telecommunication services to regional Australia as compared to the current government plan for the National Broadband Network," Mr Pedersen said.

Chevron's **Gorgon Project Shore Crossing** was presented The Environmental Engineering Excellence Award for its meticulous planning and construction of protecting a shore based crossing to transport gas via subsea pipelines, while preserving the natural environment of the shore based project site, Barrow Island.

"The uncompromising environmental commitment to this project suggests engineering construction techniques can be ecologically sensitive and still allow us to maintain our natural environment for the future," Mr Pedersen said.

"The **Toowoomba Range Railway Flood Recovery** project, a joint venture entered by Queensland Rail, Golder Associates and Thiess, was awarded an Engineering Excellence Award for the rapid repair to the Toowoomba Range Railway after the 2011 Queensland Floods.

"This project quickly reinstated the rail connection to Toowoomba, enabling agricultural, industrial, and mining producers in south-western Queensland (after the area suffered the worst floods in Queensland's history in January 2011) to re-establish their economic sustainability.

"Innovative engineering and construction methods were applied to recover 262 damaged sites, five of which were critical to redeem railway operations. The project was delivered in two and a half months –three months ahead of schedule– ensuring minimal interruption to Queensland's economy." Mr Pedersen said.

BHP Biliton's **Hunter River Remediation Project** is the largest environmental clean-up project of its kind in Australia and was awarded an Engineering Excellence Award for setting new benchmarks in remediation.

–Page 1 of 2–

Engineers Australia is the peak representative body for professional engineers, technologists and associates, representing more than 100,000 members from all disciplines of the engineering team. Engineers Australia is the largest and most diverse professional body for engineers in Australia and we maintain representation in every state and territory.

20 November 2012

“The project applied high standards in removing contaminated sediment caused by the former Newcastle Steelworks which had been in operation for 85 years. Extensive research, investigation and planning was undertaken to identify the appropriate technology to restore the Hunter River.

“The project has also enabled the expansion of the Newcastle Port facilities which will allow for further growth in exports through Australia’s busiest bulk material export port,” Mr Pedersen said.

The **Gladstone Power Station** project –entered through the Asset Management Society of Engineers Australia– by NRG Gladstone Operating Services Pty Ltd has been awarded an Engineering Excellence Award based on commitment to asset management, collaboration and leadership in transforming the power station’s performance. This project demonstrates why maintaining an investment by a business in annual maintenance can save long term costs to business and maintain productivity of a facility.

“The power station has been in operation for 35 years and is the single largest power station in all of Queensland. This asset maintenance project which has run over the past three years has transformed the performance of the station to meet world’s best practice for availability of power. The commitment by the company in supporting its employees to this program is commended,” Mr Pedersen said.

The **SeaUrchin Marine Power Generator** project, a joint venture by Elemental Energy Technologies Ltd, ATSA Defence Services Pty Ltd, RPC Technologies Pty Ltd & e3k (a Division of Gilmore Engineers Pty Ltd) has been awarded an Engineering Excellence Award for its revolutionary technology in marine power generation.

“By capturing the kinetic energy of the world’s ocean streams, tidal currents and river flows, the project is almost 70% more efficient than conventional *propeller*-driven, marine generators which are commonly used. With only one moving part, the technology is capable of extracting energy at both low and high flow rates and allows up to four times more power to be harnessed,” Mr Pedersen said.

Sedgman Limited’s **Ukhaa Khudag (UHG) CHPP** project received an Engineering Excellence Award as it sets new Australian engineering benchmarks in the design and construction of coal handling plants.

“The project involved in-depth research, planning and construction of a coal handling and preparation plant in the Gobi Desert, Mongolia. The project met diverse challenges to build in a remote region where temperatures reach minus 40 degrees celsius in winter and well over 40 degrees celsius in summer, with frequent wind and dust storms. This project demonstrates why Australia’s engineering capability is now world-renowned and is being sought internationally,” Mr Pedersen said.

“The Australian Engineering Excellence Awards showcases the central role of Australia’s engineering profession plays in making our world a better place. Each year the project entries continue to push the boundaries of possibility through innovative and sustainable engineering. Congratulations to the eight winners and 34 project finalists involved in the 2012 Australian Engineering Excellence Awards,” Mr Pedersen said.

About the Australian Engineering Excellence Awards:

The Australian Engineering Excellence Awards celebrate the accomplishments of some of the finest engineering companies and individuals in the world. The winners show world class expertise and innovation in developing and implementing engineering solutions. **Website:** <http://www.excellenceawards.org.au>

–Page 2 of 2–

Media Contact:

Sara Ross - Manager Public Relations Engineers Australia
Phone (02) 6270 6565 | mobile 0402419962 | sross@engineersaustralia.org.au

Engineers Australia is the peak representative body for professional engineers, technologists and associates, representing more than 100,000 members from all disciplines of the engineering team. Engineers Australia is the largest and most diverse professional body for engineers in Australia and we maintain representation in every state and territory.