



Conference News

83rd National Conference Electricity 2007: Power to the People 15-17 August 2007, Melbourne CALL FOR PAPERS

The 83rd national conference shall be held in Melbourne from the 15th – 17th of August 2007. The conference aims to bring women and men from across the electricity supply industry (including generation, transmission, distribution, research and development, manufacturers, education and energy users) to learn and share knowledge about their industry. Delegates shall listen to conference speakers present their papers on an array of topics, discuss new products with equipment suppliers and service providers at the trade exhibition and will be given opportunities to 'network' with colleagues during the conference and the conference dinner. Further details of the Conference can be found at: www.materialsaustralia.com.au/EESAElectricity2007

The Conference Committee now seeks expressions of interest from participants from all areas of the Electricity Power Industry to present suitable papers at the Conference. A broad range of topics will be addressed at the conference, with particular interest in papers on new developments, technologies and techniques in the following areas:

- Management of network contingencies;
- Emergency Response and Recovery;
- Protection, Control and Communications;
- Consumer's power of choice;
- Living standards and electricity supply;
- Holistic solutions to Australian electricity producer's largest challenge, climate change. The importance of utilising an array of technologies;
- The influence of public opinion on climate change on Australia's energy future;
- Engineering roles and skills within the electricity supply industry;
- Generation, Transmission, Distribution, Retail and End Use Customers;
- Low carbon emission electricity generation technology including Nuclear, Geosequestration and Renewable;
- Planning and Regulation;
- Power System Maintenance, Reliability, Performance and Security;
- Demand Management;
- Energy Trading, Retailing and Competition;
- Career Development;
- Increasing Plant Efficiency (Industrial, Commercial & Domestic).

Awards will be presented for the best paper presented by a member of EESA (the Conway Award) and the best paper presented by a new-member (the Cresswell Award). These awards include the opportunity to present your paper at the Electrical Engineers' Association New Zealand Annual Conference, (airfares and accommodation included)

Authors interested in having a paper considered for inclusion in this important industry conference should submit an abstract of their proposed paper for consideration. Abstracts should not exceed two A4 pages, but must be accompanied by a statement of the author's intention and availability to present the paper in person at the Conference.

Submissions are to be received no later than close of business 31st March 2007 and should be sent to: Helen Woodall at events@materialsaustralia.com.au or via the Electricity 2007 website: www.materialsaustralia.com.au/EESAElectricity2007.

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The Electric Energy Society of Australia

News and Issues from around the Industry...

by John Thomson

PM pushing harder on national power reform

Meetings of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) are invariably preceded by a spate of media releases and "announcements" as the PM and/or the various State Premiers take positions on certain issues. The next meeting due in April is no exception. However this time the PM has been more vocal than previously on two matters associated with the national electricity market. The Age reported on February 28 that, in the view of John Howard, the States needed to set a timetable for introduction of a national transmission grid, and that "... there must be an early timetable for a national roll-out of a 'smart meter.'" In the latter case, the PM has highlighted the smart meter as "... playing a role in addressing the nation's greenhouse challenge."

In regard to the first issue, the Energy Reform Implementation Group (ERIG) established by the Government last year has been quite transparent in pushing for a national transmission grid. Many observers and industry players have questioned the lack of evidence put forward by ERIG as to the real benefits of such a major change, or indeed exactly what specific shortcomings such a move is intended to address. The response of ERIG to these criticisms is awaited.

Meanwhile, in an interesting piece of timing the Productivity Commission (PC) released its report into the National Reform Agenda On February 28. According to the PC, "... more work must be done to boost competition between power stations and capacity on the \$9.5 billion electricity transmission grid despite more than a decade of sweeping reform to the electricity sector." It found that further structural change could cut retail electricity bids by an average of around 2 percent, and that "... alleviating congestion on the transmission network would improve the system - and is a priority of the reform agenda." The report concludes NSW could benefit the most from reform.

Isn't there an election in NSW very soon?

DNSP Proposed Distribution Loss Factors (DLFs)

The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal in NSW (IPART) is the jurisdictional regulator with responsibility for approving DLFs proposed by the Distribution Network Service Providers (DNSPs) in NSW. On Wednesday February 28 IPART invited stakeholders to make submissions by 16 March 2007 on the DLF proposals received from the following Energy Australia, Integral Energy and Country Energy.

Queensland Government 'Pockets' \$3 Billion from Sale of Electricity Retail Businesses

On 19 February 2007 AGL Energy was officially announced as the successful bidder for Powerdirect Australia, having paid some \$1.203bn. Powerdirect is the former competitive retailing arm of Ergon Energy, combined with over 390,000 south-east Queensland residential, rural and small to medium-sized enterprise accounts transferred from Sun Retail, Energex's former retail business.

With the completion of the Powerdirect sale, the Queensland Government energy retail business' sales have grossed more than \$3bn to reinvest in infrastructure back through the Queensland Future Growth Fund.

Competition concerns were immediately raised by the purchase in the context of the 'potential' merger between AGL Energy and Origin. In related news, the NSW Government have been reported as accusing ERIG of failing to undertake a robust cost benefit study of privatisation. Talk of privatisation in the run-up to the NSW election on March 24 is not viewed very kindly by the government.

AEMC Draft Determination - Removal of Snowy Region

The Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) has released a draft determination to remove the Snowy region in favour of a single regional boundary between Tumut generators and Murray generators. A public forum on the proposal was held in Melbourne on 22 February. The AEMC's draft decision is partly based on detailed modelling of the net benefits of this proposal carried out by Frontier Economics. This modelling includes a quantitative assessment of the impacts on bidding behaviour and interregional trading risk.

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The AEMC's proposal appears to face hurdles due to the relatively modest benefits of the proposal compared with the costs of implementation. Many traders have interregional contracting positions based on existing arrangements that extend up to three years into the future. NEMMCO also faces challenges implementing changes by the proposed implementation date of November 2007.

In a related development, the AEMC has sought the NSW Minister for Energy's views on the possibility of increasing the number of wholesale pricing regions within NSW, in line with an alternative Macquarie Generation proposal for abolishing the Snowy region and introducing new regions in South West NSW and Northern Victoria. Macquarie Generation has since simplified their alternative proposal, but is still seeking more market regions in NSW.

Snowy to be Compensated after AER's Dispute Resolution Panel finds NEMMCO Made Scheduling Errors

On 10 February 2007, the Australian Energy Regulator's Dispute Resolution Panel (DRP) delivered its final determination in the dispute between Snowy and NEMMCO concerning NEMMCO's management of certain outage events on 31 October 2005.

The DRP is highly qualified. There are 3 judges on the DRP including Sir Anthony Mason, QC, former Chief High Court Justice and Attorney General. The DRP found that there were scheduling errors due to specific failures by NEMMCO. Snowy and any other participant which claims it has suffered a loss as a result of the scheduling errors will now have the opportunity to bring evidence to that effect. It is understood that Snowy could be seeking compensation as high as \$35 million from the Participant Compensation Fund.

A conference with the DRP was held in Melbourne on 27 February to discuss the running of the next hearing.

EESA NSW Chapter News

Date for your diary

EESA NSW is organising the following regional seminars...

Thursday 29 March 2007

Port Macquarie: Country Energy
1-6pm Technical Power Seminar

See attached flyer for more details

Friday 25 May 2007

Sydney: Integral Energy Huntingwood
3pm Redevelopment of the Springhill
Transmission Substation

Friday 6 July 2007

Sydney: Sydney Mechanics School of Arts,
followed by the NSW Chapter AGM

July/August 2007

Canberra: ActewAGL

13 & 14 September 2007

NSW Chapter State Conference:
Balancing the New Energy Equation.

Call for papers will be issued shortly.

Bulletin 2, April - May 2007

Please email submissions by 6 April 2007 to the Bulletin Editor, Peter Tapp
on peter.tapp@gmail.com

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EESA Victorian Chapter News

EESA STUDENT AWARDS 2006

Congratulations to the EESA 2006 Student Award Winners which recognised high academic achievement and best project directly applicable to the Electric Power Industry.

MONASH UNIVERSITY

Luke Robinson, Electrical and Computer Systems Engineering, won this award for his outstanding fourth year project 'Development of a Microprocessor Controller to Regulate the Operation of a Self Excited Induction Generator'. The development is suitable for use in remote community micro hydro generation systems. Luke's award recognised a project that was directly applicable to the Electric Power Industry.

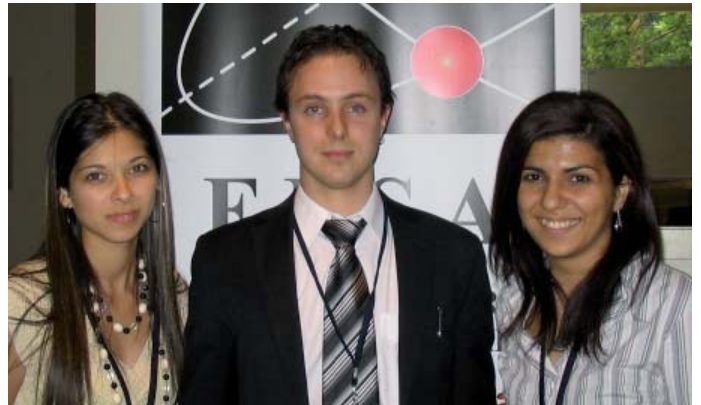
RMIT UNIVERSITY

John Gangemi (not photographed), School of Electrical and Computer Engineering won this award for his project, 'Mechanical Power Meter'. The project involved creating a compact measuring device that can accurately calculate speed, torque and power from a motor shaft under varying mechanical loads using shaft mounted sensors. John's award recognised the key goal of maximum performance at minimum price and its potential for application to real time field mounted condition/performance monitoring of in service equipment.

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY

Sirin Bultan, School of Electrical Engineering, won this award for academic achievement in completing her degree in Electrical and Electronics Engineering with a specialisation in Power Systems. Sirin's award recognised her contribution to the field of renewable energy and power electronics.

Marlien Mankarious was the winner of the Alinta Ltd Student Power Engineering Award. Marlien's award recognised her work at Energy Australia for the risk assessment of the population of 33kV wall bushings and the determination and recommendation of alternative replacements.



Marlien Mankarious, Victoria University, Luke Robinson, Monash University and Sirin Bultan, Victoria University

Both Sirin and Marlien are to be congratulated on their achievements of studies in Power Engineering. These women are a role model for our women Power Engineers of the future. They represented the modern, confident and forward looking approach of today's Women in Engineering.

UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

David Burdon, Electrical and Computer Systems Engineering won this award for his final year's honours project conducted for TEMCO – Tasmanian Metallurgical Company, Bell Bay Tasmania.

The project involved developing a three-phase model of the TEMCO smelting plant, in order to determine how the plant responds to small and large-scale disturbances. The model was designed at the 110 to 22 kV level, and included major load components such as four submerged arc furnaces, 110/22 kV and furnace transformers, circuit breakers, distribution cables and power factor correction equipment. David's award recognised his outstanding academic record within his major of Power Engineering.

EESA STUDENT AWARDS 2007

In 2007 the VICTAS Universities with Schools in Power Engineering will again be invited to nominate one of their Students as a recipient of the EESA Student Award for 2006. We encourage students in these Schools to consider the Award criteria when selecting their studies and projects in 2007 and set this as one of their goals for their achievements.

Criteria

The nominated winners for EESA VICTAS Student Award 2007 will be selected on the following criteria: Academic Achievement: High academic achievement in electrical engineering in areas of study directly applicable to the Electric Power Industry (EPI); and Project: Best project (or thesis or similar) by an electrical engineering student with direct relevance to the Electric Power Industry (EPI). Preference will be given to applications where the fields of study or project are specifically directed toward the requirements of the Electric Power Industry; however consideration will also be given to students with studies or projects which could be applicable to a wide range of industries where the student can show applicability to the Electric Power Industry.