



Media Release

National excellence award for Alfred Hospital ICU redevelopment

The electrical installation for the Alfred Hospital Intensive Care Unit (ICU) redevelopment has won a national excellence award with Downer EDI Engineering Electrical taking out the Commercial Medium Project Award at the 2009 National Electrical and Communications Association (NECA) Excellence Awards in Melbourne on 26 November. The award follows a win for Downer EDI in this category at the NECA Victoria Excellence Awards in July.

Downer EDI Engineering Electrical, based at Port Melbourne, was contracted to supply, install, test and commission all electrical services to complete the installation of the new ICU which is the largest in the southern hemisphere. The project required disconnection and isolation of all electrical services within the existing ICU demolition zone while maintaining services to departments around the ICU. The new extension involved installation of new sub mains, distribution boards and non-essential, essential and UPS power supplies to staff stations and bed bays, with facility for the bed bays to be shut down for maintenance without affecting other bed bays. Earthing in the cardiac protected areas required special resistance for the safety of patients. Customised lighting is controlled by C-Bus and dynalite systems, with switchable glass between bed bays and above the staff stations to enable adjustable viewing between bays and to control outside lighting. The communication system has optical fibre cables and category 6 cabling for the local area networks.

David Colasante, manager – commercial electrical, said on behalf of Downer EDI Engineering Electrical, "It was great recognition for our team to receive a state award but to go on and win a national award is a true honour for our company. Our team demonstrated its excellent commercial and management expertise on this project, and it is terrific to be able to contribute to such an important facility for the health services of this country."

Australia's electrical and communications contractors have continued to deliver world-class installations using the latest environmentally sustainable technologies despite the tough economic conditions of the past year. All national award winners across ten categories distinguished themselves through innovative design and clever use of technology that sets international benchmarks for electrical and communications installations.

Mr James Tinslay, NECA national chief executive officer said, "As the electrotechnology industry's peak body, NECA is proud to promote the innovative, world-class electrotechnology projects of our member organisations through the NECA Excellence Awards. During an economically challenging year, our national award winners have set themselves apart with projects of exceptional quality that have set new benchmarks for our industry, not only in Australia but around the world. The work of these organisations has also made a significant contribution to the development of the industry in the areas of business and project management systems, environment and sustainability, occupational health and safety, and employment and training. Downer EDI Engineering Electrical is congratulated on its win."

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