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DRIFTEX, BATTERY ELECTRIC VEHICLE, WINS 2023 NSW MINING AWARD FOR HEALTH EXCELLENCE

- DRIFTEX, a certified Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV) designed and developed by Ampcontrol, ResTech and Solitech for use in underground mining applications has been awarded for Health Excellence at the NSW Mining HSEC Awards 2023.
- Developed in response to growing industry demand for low emissions technology, DRIFTEX is effective in removing Diesel Particulate Matter (DPM), a Group 2A carcinogen from underground applications, offering significant potential for health and environmental improvements.
- This is the first industry honour for DRIFTEX as Ampcontrol seeks to solve the most complex problems in energy.

DRIFTEX, a certified Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV) specifically designed for underground mining applications, designed and developed by Ampcontrol in collaboration with ResTech and Solitech has been awarded for Health Excellence at the NSW Mining HSEC Awards.

The development of DRIFTEX was in response to growing and immediate industry demand for low emissions technology and to remove Diesel Particulate Matter (DPM) which is classified as a Group 2A carcinogen from underground applications. Its primary benefit lies in its ability to replace diesel-powered vehicles with an alternate power source, offering significant potential for industry-wide health and environmental improvements.

Tim Wylie, Ampcontrol Chief Technology Officer accepted the award on behalf of Ampcontrol at the awards ceremony held at Rydges Resort Hunter Valley, Lovedale NSW on Monday 7 August 2023.

“Innovation is in our DNA. We work very closely with our customers to see what their needs are and what problems we may be able to help them solve which is how DRIFTEX came into development. At Ampcontrol we’re proud to be part of initiatives that pave the way in advancing the energy sector and helping our mining customers decarbonise. It’s an honour to have the work of our people awarded by NSW Mining,” says **Rod Henderson, Ampcontrol Managing Director & CEO**.

Through a collaboration with Solitech, The University of Newcastle and ResTech, DRIFTEX incorporates a 60kWh intrinsically safe battery management system with a long cycle life of 20,000-30,000 cycles, allowing for approximately ten years of operation with 80% battery life remaining. Notably, DRIFTEX is the first commercially available and certified explosion-protected BEV for underground mines.

DRIFTEX seamlessly integrates with standard EV chargers and can also be supplied with purpose-built chargers. Its cooling system enables fast-charging capabilities, allowing for a full battery charge in 10 minutes using high-powered DC fast chargers.

According to Australian Mining Regulations and Standards, the vehicle is approved as Explosion Protected and features multicolour intrinsically safe headlights. It also incorporates IoT connectivity to enhance operation, maintenance, and fault finding. DRIFTEX is equipped with two 100kW motors, providing a combined output torque of 1500 Nm.

“The beauty of DRIFTEX can be seen in how it can support the reduction of site environmental emissions, contributing to improvements in the social license of the mine. Through our strong partnerships and advanced technologies, we’re working to revolutionise industry and make global net zero a reality,” says Mr Henderson.

Ends.

Ampcontrol is challenging the future by solving the most complex problems in energy. Ampcontrol creates energy solutions of scale using innovation partnerships, their smart people and advanced Australian manufacturing. Their vision is to lead the global energy revolution and make net zero a reality. Every day, the world-first innovations from Ampcontrol help and support customers in all industries to decarbonise. With a proven track record of award-winning innovations and 55 years of developing custom energy solutions, Ampcontrol is trusted by customers worldwide to future-proof their business.

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About Ampcontrol

- Ampcontrol is Australia's largest privately-owned electrical engineering company leading advanced global manufacturing of award-winning innovations, products, solutions and service to the resources, infrastructure and energy sectors.
- From humble beginnings founded by four friends in a small shed in Newcastle in 1968, Ampcontrol has grown to over 950 employees across 30 operations worldwide.
- Ampcontrol co-founder, Peter Cockbain AM, is named by Engineers Australia as one of Australia's top 100 influential engineers and in 2015 he became a Member of the Order for Australia for his significant services to engineering.
- Locations include New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, Northern Territory, ACT, Asia, India, Mongolia, UK, and France.
- The largest operation is located in the Hunter, NSW, with a combined manufacturing space totalling over 21,000sqm spread over 10 different sites.
- Designed and built lifesaving emergency ventilator prototypes for the NSW Government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Developed the world's first IECEx certification for an explosion protected, hermetically sealed, nitrogen filled and pressurised mining transformer.
- Developed the industry's first 132kV emergency response mobile substation that has received RTA approval as a new special class type of vehicle due to its innovative design and ability to meet all road safety requirements.
- Developed Australia's first variable speed drive (VSD) installed on a longwall armored face conveyor in Moranbah North Longwall.
- Designed and developed a breakthrough remote water treatment system that transforms undrinkable water into pure water. Pilot project currently installed in a remote indigenous community in Gillen Bore, Northern Territory.

MULTI-AWARD WINNING ENGINEERING, DESIGN, AND INNOVATION

- 2023 Hunter Safety Awards for Best WHS Improvement Award ('Live Work Better')
- 2023 HunterNet Chairman's Award for Member of the Year
- 2021 Good Design Award for Excellence In Engineering Design (Solar Qube)
- 2021 Hunter Manufacturing Award for 'Excellence In Product 'Design' (Solar Qube)
- 2021 Hunter Manufacturing Award for 'Collaboration 'Partnership' (Hybrid Diesel Electric Boat)
- 2020 Hunter Business Award for Excellence In Innovation & Adaptability for 'Emergency Ventilator Project'
- 2020 Hunter Manufacturing Award for Collaboration Partnership for 'Emergency Ventilator Project'
- 2020 Hunter Manufacturing Award for Manufacturing Pivot for 'Emergency Ventilator Project'
- 2020 Lake Macquarie Business Excellence In Innovation for 'Emergency Ventilator Project'
- 2020 Consult Australia Awards for Excellence for Technological Innovation for 'Gilghi'
- 2020 [Institution of Civil Engineers](#) Chris Binnie Award for Sustainable Water Management for 'Gilghi'
- 2020 Engineering Excellence Award Newcastle Division for 'Gilghi'
- 2020 Good Design Award winner for Social Impact for 'Gilghi'
- 2020 NSW Mining Supplier of the Year
- 2020 Australian Water Association NSW Water Infrastructure Project Innovation Award for 'Gilghi'
- 2019 Hunter Business Excellence Award for Innovation' Gilghi'
- 2019 Good Design Award winner for Product Design – Commercial and Industrial for 'Rockstarter'
- 2019 Good Design Award winner for Engineering Design for 'Rockstarter'
- 2019 Scottish Engineering Awards – President's Award winner
- 2019 Lake Macquarie Business Excellence Award for Innovation for 'Gilghi'
- 2019 Mine Electrical Safety Conference Innovation Award for AFC VSD Moranbah North Longwall Project
- 2018 HunterNet Chairman Awards Excellence In Work Health Safety
- 2018 Hunter Business Awards Excellence In Business (20+ employees)
- 2018 NSW Minerals Council Outstanding Supplier for 'H3RO'
- 2017 Hunter Manufacturing Awards Excellence In Product Design for 'VoiceComm Phone'
- 2015 Engineers Australia Newcastle Engineering Excellence Award for 'Arc Fault Venting – Simulation and Practice'
- 2013 Australian Engineering Excellence Award winner for Engineering Innovation' Management of VSD earth leakage currents in fault limited networks'
- 2010 Australian Engineering Excellence Award winner for Engineering Excellence' Blakefield South 11kV longwall in partnership with Xstrata Coal and Joy Global'
- 1998 Australian Engineering Excellence Award winner for Engineering Excellence 'iMAC'