

**AMPCONTROL CO-FOUNDER PETER COCKBAIN AM
AWARDED THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE
2021 ALUMNI MEDAL FOR PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE**

- **Peter Cockbain AM, is the recipient of the 2021 Alumni Medal for Professional Excellence, the highest honour in the University of Newcastle Alumni Excellence Awards**
- **Peter Cockbain AM is co-founder of Ampcontrol, Australia's largest privately owned electrical engineering company, established in Newcastle in 1968**

Peter Cockbain AM, Co-Founder of Ampcontrol, one of Australia's largest privately-owned electrical engineering company, is the recipient of the 2021 Alumni Medal for Professional Excellence in the University of Newcastle Alumni Excellence Awards.

The Alumni Medal for Professional Excellence recognises outstanding leadership, knowledge, and professional practice - the highest honour of the University's Alumni Excellence Awards.

Peter is a distinguished innovator, entrepreneur, industrialist, philanthropist, and one of Australia's most highly regarded and influential engineers. In 2010, Engineers Australia named Peter one of Australia's 100 Engineering Leaders of the past century. In 2015 he became a Member of the Order of Australia for his significant services to engineering.

Graduating from a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Newcastle in 1972, Peter has served the University in numerous leadership roles, including Member of University Council, Chair of Controlled and Associated Entities Committee, Member of the Finance and Audit Committee, Risk Management Committee, Strategic Development Committee, Tender Committee and the Board University Services.

Under Peter Cockbain's leadership, Ampcontrol has maintained strong ties with the University of Newcastle's College of Engineering, Science and Environment, including supporting undergraduate and postgraduate scholarships, internships, lecturing and tutoring, and funding of a Chair in Power Engineering.

Peter acknowledges that the University of Newcastle has been extremely important to his career and to the growth of Ampcontrol.

"Even after I graduated, I still relied on the University to provide a lot of information to me and my team so that we could take Ampcontrol from what it was in 1968 to what it is today, with nearly 1000 employees. Over the years, recent undergraduates, postgraduates and even a couple of professors had joined us as we have grown and expanded outside of Newcastle, into the UK, Europe, and America. Without the University, none of this would have been possible."

On winning the Alumni Medal for Professional Excellence, Peter Cockbain AM said, "It is a great honour and surprise to receive a University of Newcastle Alumni Excellence Award, amid the hundreds of thousands of members of the Alumni. I sincerely thank the University of Newcastle for this acknowledgement."

"Ongoing and close collaborations with the College of Engineering, Science and Environment at the University of Newcastle has been instrumental in my career progression to lead and guide future electrical engineers and expand innovative research and development in the sector. The collaborations have assisted in developing the technological platforms that Ampcontrol continues to propagate today."

Peter continues to support promising university students in their engineering degree through the Newcastle Division Mentoring program and has coached many Technologists and Associates in education and vocation, encouraging and investing in their articulation to a professional engineer.

“The biggest thing I am proud of, is that we provide hundreds or possibly thousands of jobs for people. We're now employing two further generations of some of our original employees. Another key achievement is that we've added to the productivity of industries throughout Australia. We've also added to the safety margins in our areas of expertise. And, in doing so, we've created jobs for other people in other industries.”

In 2004, Peter established ResTech, a Registered Research Agency as a collaboration between Ampcontrol and the University. Today, ResTech provides research and development and innovative product development solutions for electrical and electronic engineering. Peter is also a substantial contributor to the University's medical research team working towards early detection of ovarian cancer.

In March 2020, Ampcontrol responded to the NSW Government's 'call-to-arms' to design an emergency ventilator in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Designing and delivering a fully functional emergency ventilator prototype for testing in just 18 days. TGA Permission to Supply was achieved within five months of application.

Ampcontrol Managing Director & CEO, Rod Henderson, said, “I wholeheartedly congratulate Peter on winning the Alumni Medal for Professional Excellence; this incredible accolade is a tribute to Peter's influential contribution to the Australian engineering and manufacturing industry over many decades. From humble beginnings in 1968, under Peter's leadership, Ampcontrol has grown to a global operation of 30 sites and over 830 people around the world. Peter's vision, passion and determination to continuously improve, innovate and manufacture homegrown products have steered Ampcontrol to become a worldwide business success story it is today.”

The long list of high profile national, state and regional awards Ampcontrol has received for its innovation, design and technology is a testament to Peter's founding philosophies set down in 1968 on the dirt floor of the shed in suburban Jesmond, when Ampcontrol was originally established.

For a company specialising in resources, infrastructure and energy solutions, rapidly pivoting its world-leading expertise and production facilities into manufacturing critical emergency medical equipment in the Hunter region during a global pandemic demonstrates the 'can do' foundations, engineering excellence and ingenuity built over the past 53 years.

Ends.

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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 850 employees, 6 member companies and 30 operations worldwide. Australian owned and operated, locations including New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, Northern Territory, ACT and South-East Asia. Built on a foundation of innovation, agility and ingenuity, the talented people of Ampcontrol energise our world by designing and developing integrated electrical solutions and technology that make a meaningful improvement to people's lives and communities across the globe. For more information visit www.ampcontrolgroup.com

SHORT DESCRIPTION

115 WORDS

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DIGITAL CHANNELS

Ampcontrol <https://www.ampcontrolgroup.com/>

Ampcontrol Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ampcontrolgroup/>

Ampcontrol Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ampcontrolgroup>

Ampcontrol LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/ampcontrol/>

Ampcontrol Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/ampcontrol/>

Ampcontrol YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel>

MULTI-AWARD WINNING ENGINEERING, DESIGN AND INNOVATION

- 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'