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AMPCONTROL PARTNERS WITH SCHOOLS OUTREACH PROGRAM TO BOOST WOMEN IN STEM INDUSTRIES

- Ampcontrol announces sponsorship of HunterWiSE on International Women's Day 2023.
- Further investment in STEM careers is crucial to see an increase in female participation in engineering as women only make up 27% of the workforce across all STEM industries within Australia.
- In the past 12 months, Ampcontrol has recorded a 24.1% increase in female employees.

Strengthening its commitment to providing a diverse workforce and the next generation of innovators, Ampcontrol has announced its sponsorship of Hunter-based industry schools outreach program HunterWiSE.

HunterWiSE is an initiative for women and girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) aimed to positively impact perceptions of STEM careers amongst school-aged girls to increase overall participation by women.

According to the Australian Government Department of Industry, Science and Resources *The state of STEM gender equity in 2022*, released 23 September 2022, women only make up 27% of the workforce across all STEM industries. In the past 12 months, Ampcontrol has seen a 24.1% increase in female employees within its global workforce.

"Ampcontrol is serious about creating diverse teams with women an important and integral part of the vibrant engineering and technology world. We recognise the need to engage students at an early stage in their learning before they reach their final years in school. There are a number of career pathways we offer at Ampcontrol, and we have strong ties with local schools and The University of Newcastle to get young people excited by a career in STEM. We believe it's vitally important for industry and education to work together," said Mikhaila Halford, Ampcontrol Capability Development Manager.

"Our involvement in the HunterWiSE Program will allow Ampcontrol to partner with students from a local school, where we can provide mentoring and support to inspire young women to pursue a career in engineering."

Professor Anna Giacomini is a co-founder of HunterWiSE. She is also the Director of the University of Newcastle's Priority Research Centre for Geotechnical Science and Engineering. She recognises that the success of HunterWiSE initiatives is due in part to the contributions of industry partners, who provide opportunities for students to learn about and explore a wide range of STEM careers.

Announcing the sponsorship at an International Women's Day breakfast attended by over 100 Ampcontrol employees in Newcastle, special guest Professor Anna Giamcomini said:

"If you don't show that these options are available career paths early enough to allow them to choose relevant subjects, it will be too late. It's why our HunterWiSE Schools Outreach 10-week program targets female students in Year 8."

HunterWiSE features two interlinked actions to increase the number of girls and women participating in STEM: a 10-week targeted school outreach program, and a series of networking events across the Hunter for STEM professionals. This approach is designed to steer women toward STEM, and encourage their retention in the STEM pipeline.

HunterWiSE students will work in small groups to identify an issue in their local community and then develop a STEM-based solution to the problem. As an industry partner, Ampcontrol will invite students to tour facilities and see STEM careers in action, with the opportunity to engage directly with students in their classroom to share STEM expertise and insights.

“As a sponsor, we will have the opportunity to offer site visits and open days to the students where they will have the opportunity to get hands on and work shoulder to shoulder with our women in STEM careers. HunterWiSE is an investment in the future of STEM careers in the Hunter region, and we look forward to seeing these students continue their STEM learning journey throughout school and beyond,” said Mikhaila.

Since the pilot program, HunterWiSE has grown and will this year reach students from 11 schools within the Hunter region. It was first launched in 2017 by a team of passionate female academics from STEM disciplines at the University of Newcastle.

Ends.

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. Founded in Newcastle NSW in 1968, Ampcontrol has grown to over 950 employees across 30 operations worldwide.

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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

- 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'