



ABN. 69 003 696 526
Unit 3, Suite 2, 9 Parramatta Road, Lidcombe PO Box 6165, Silverwater, NSW, 1811
Phone: + 61 (0)2 9748 4443 Fax: + 61 (0)2 9748 2858
Email: info@wtia.com.au URL: http://www.wtia.com.au

~ PRESS RELEASE ~

NT small companies achieve international recognition

Three Northern Territory SME fabricators, Universal Engineering, Topline Steel Fabrications and A&B Welding Pty Ltd have become the first companies in Australia to achieve international recognition for their welding quality management systems. The companies were assisted by the WTIA Technology Manager in the Territory, and were audited by TWI Certification Ltd from Cambridge in the UK last June. All three companies were successful and will receive certification to AS/NZS ISO 3834, ISO 3834 and EN 729 "Quality requirements for welding - Fusion welding of metallic materials" – a first in Australia.

Achievement of this certification enhances the three companies' competitiveness for both local and overseas contracts as these Standards are being called up more and more frequently in project specifications. Mr Chris Smallbone, Executive Director of the WTIA and recently appointed President-Elect of the International Institute of Welding said that "with their capabilities internationally benchmarked through the certification which is recognised around the world, Universal, Topline and A&B have significantly broadened their potential markets."

NT is currently enjoying unprecedented economic growth with significant projects in the oil and gas, fabrication, pipeline and rail industries contributing to a surge in activity in the welding-related industries. WTIA has been working closely with SMEs in and round Darwin and also with the NT Government and local training providers to help to build up the number of skilled personnel to service this boom and to keep fabrication work on-shore.

Mr Smallbone went on to urge companies to consider applying for certification, and to encourage personnel in the welding industry to upgrade their Australian and international qualifications.



The WTIA's activities in the Territory form part of a National Diffusion Networks Project (NDNP) supported by a recent Federal Government Innovation Access Program grant, as well as State and Territory Governments and industry Australia-wide. The NT Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development (DBIRD), through Minister Paul Henderson, and other departments are working closely with the Institute and its Technology Manager based in Darwin to assist local industry to improve its performance and global competitiveness. The WTIA Project contributes significantly to the Northern Territory Manufacturing Industry Strategy, *Making it in the Territory*, which outlines the major steps we need to take together to

capitalise on the exciting new manufacturing opportunities and build on those within our existing manufacturing sector.



An initiative of the WTIA National Diffusion Networks Project funded by the Federal and State and Territory Governments and industry.

PR0402 Issued by:

Anne Rorke – WTIA Technology Transfer Coordinator

25 August 2004



The WTIA has joined forces with industry and Governments and created a multi million dollar Technology Support Centres Network. This Network assists industry to identify and exploit world's best technology and manufacturing methods to establish a vibrant Australian industry beyond 2006. Together we are implementing a step-by-step process that will lead to ongoing viability and greater profitability for all concerned:

- (1) Determine your technological and manufacturing needs;
- (2) Identify world's best practice;
- (3) Draw upon the Network to implement world's best practice at your site.

MEMBER INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF WELDING
CORE PARTNER CRC FOR WELDED STRUCTURES

