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~ PRESS RELEASE ~

NT Chief Minister congratulates certified companies

Four Northern Territory SME fabricators received WTIA certificates for the International Institute of Welding (IIW) Manufacturer Certification Scheme According to ISO 3834 (IIW MCS ISO 3834) from Chief Minister Paul Henderson in early December 2009.

“These companies have an excellent chance of getting more work because of the international recognition of their quality management systems. This is particularly important given the growing Oil and Gas industry in the Territory” the Minister said.

Major oil and gas companies in Darwin have embraced the certification scheme and for some companies it has become a pre-qualification requirement for fabrication work on pressure piping and key structural work. Achieving world's best practice is particularly important in this sector, and certification to IIW MCS ISO 3834 gives companies internationally recognised credentials.

Fingers Specialised Metal Fabrication this year achieved certification for the first time while **A & B Welding, Topline Steel Fabrications** and **Universal Engineering** passed WTIA audits to achieve certification to the international IIW MCS ISO 3834.

Steve Tiley, Managing Director of Universal supported the Minister when he commented that “ISO 3834 gives the company and all our stakeholders the confidence to bid on and complete high quality products. Over the past few years we have been able to take on larger and more complex projects. This has led to improved revenue, higher employment and apprenticeships, improved staff retention, less rework and improved delivery times”

In 2004 A & B, Topline and Universal were the first companies in Australia to achieve recognition to ISO 3834 for their welding quality management systems – a real testament to the capabilities and quality of Territory companies.

The WTIA has been promoting and facilitating the national take up and implementation of the truly international IIW MCS ISO 3834, with nine companies around the country now certified.

“A & B Welding attained ISO 3834 five years ago and it has proven to be a huge asset to our company. It has been a requirement of several of our larger clients and it is now part of our daily practise. WTIA has helped us set up ISO 3834 and we have benefited from their advice over many years” said Zelda Atkins who founded the company with her husband, Laurie.

The Institute’s most recent project, “NT Industry Development and Solving Skill Shortages”, is supported by the NT Departments of Business and Employment (DBE), Education and Training (DET) and the Regional Development Primary Industry Fisheries and Resources (DRDPIFR).

Many large owner/user companies, members of the WTIA SMART Industry Groups in a range of sectors, are now specifying certification in their tendering process.

Implementation of the IIW MCS ISO 3834 enables a company to demonstrate its ability to meet and control all of the inputs necessary to tender, manufacture and deliver the required product on time – essential factors in winning contracts both in Australia and overseas. For the contractor, this must be done within budget and with the elimination of costly corrective actions and rework.

In complying with the IIW MCS ISO 3834, which is applied in conjunction with ISO 14731 *Welding coordination - Tasks and responsibilities*, companies must nominate and empower a person to become the Responsible Welding Coordinator (RWC), leading the Welding Coordination Team comprising all those involved in creating the welded product. This in turn generates career structures for individuals suitably qualified and certified to international standards.

“Since implementing ISO 3834 our company has employed more tradesmen and opened the way to more apprenticeships. Through our quality control we offer a complete professional and quality service to our customers. In working in this specialised area our company has grown considerably and our staff has grown along with us and this is evident in their confidence and pride in their workmanship” said Jan Cashion of Topline Steel Fabrications.

The IIW Qualification and Certification programs for International Welding Engineers, Technologists, Specialists, Practitioners, Welders and Inspectors have been introduced into Australia by the WTIA as the Australian and New Zealand IIW Authorised National Body (ANB). WTIA has established a network of IIW Approved Training Bodies (ATBs), including Charles Darwin University and the WTIA’s own OzWeld School of Welding Technology (SWT) to deliver international standard training courses for the range of IIW qualifications and certification cited by AS/NZS ISO 3834 and ISO 14731.

WTIA is also delivering two-day workshops around the country to help companies and their staff to understand this important competitive quality movement in Australian industry and give them practical help to implement the IIW MCS ISO 3834 and welding management to AS/NZS ISO 3834. It also has qualified International Welding Engineers and Technologists on hand to give tailored assistance, and valuable Expert Technology Tools which can be downloaded free of charge from the website www.wtia.com.au.

WTIA is working with many Australian companies and assisting them to assess their welding management and to implement the IIW MCS ISO 3834.

One of the guests at the presentation ceremony was Kim Fox, Director of OGM Engineering which is currently working towards certification with the help of WTIA’s NT Technology Manager, Leonora Wehrmann.

“OGM sees ISO 3834 as the future, to guarantee clients and prospective clients our commitment to provide world class standards in welding and fabrication. This will give all our clients assurance that our company operates within these high standards required in today’s competitive environment” said Fox.

Chris Smallbone, WTIA Executive Director and champion of the IIW MCS ISO 3834, challenged all Australian companies to show the same vision and commitment to productivity and quality as demonstrated by these outstanding SME fabricators in Australia’s Top End.



Photo 1 December 2009 – Four Northern Territory SME fabricators receiving their company certification to IIW MCS ISO 3834 from NT Chief Minister Paul Henderson (centre back), from right Steve Tiley, Universal Engineering; Jan Cashion, Topline Steel Fabrications; Zelda Atkins, A&B Welding Pty Ltd and Mark Taylor, Fingers Specialised Metal Fabrications. Pictured with WTIA’s Q&C Manager Richard Fowles (right), Executive Director Chris Smallbone and Leonora Wehrmann, the NT Technology Manager