

# Emerson Network Power Australia tackles skills shortage with in-house apprentice program

Emerson Network Power, a business of Emerson (NYSE: EMR) and the global leader in enabling Business-Critical Continuity<sup>®</sup>, has launched its own in-house apprentice program in Australia to overcome the lack of skills in its core business areas.

A specialist manufacturer of precision air cooling and power protection equipment for some of the country's largest data centres and computer rooms, Emerson has decided to invest in its own structured training program for TAFE apprentices, and has taken on three new staff as part of the program.

"It's no secret that Australia is in the grip of a dire skills shortage, and this situation is particularly acute in our industry despite the best efforts of the school and TAFE systems," says Christine Wilkie, Director, Human Resources, Emerson Network Power Australia.

"Fortunately for us we have a strong relationship with some of the leading TAFEs in the country, such as Kingswood and North Sydney in New South Wales, from which our new apprentices have been recruited."

"The four-year Apprentice Training Program was developed from the ground-up with the objective of producing field-qualified service engineers," says Ben Graham, NSW/ACT Service Manager, Emerson Network Power Australia. "It covers every aspect of a qualified Emerson engineer's skills set, from basic corporate induction into the 'Emerson Family', to supervised and unsupervised equipment repairs and maintenance, troubleshooting and installation."

Emerson apprentices are required to spend four out of five weekdays at work, either in our national training facility for one-on-one tuition from Emerson engineers, in Emerson's production facilities and R&D labs in Sydney, or onsite with Emerson Service Technicians or sub-contractors. This approach ensures that each Apprentice gains exposure to all facets of their chosen trade within the shortest possible time. One day a week is spent studying theory at TAFE, with the apprentice's tuition fees fully reimbursed by Emerson on condition that they pass their course curricula.

"We've made a direct and sizeable investment in this program because we feel it's the best way to grow our skills base and prepare the company for future growth in a highly competitive market," adds Wilkie. "The program is designed to avoid the pitfalls of outsourced apprenticeships, where students end up spending three years holding ladders and carrying their instructors' tools. This is real-world, customer-facing tuition at the coalface, and something that we hope will set the standard for on-the-job training in our industry." Emerson's Apprentice Training Program is currently running in New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria. For more information, please contact Christine Wilkie on 02 9914 2983.

## About Emerson Network Power

Emerson Network Power, a business of Emerson (NYSE:EMR), is the global leader in enabling Business-Critical Continuity<sup>®</sup>. The company is the trusted source for adaptive and ultra-reliable solutions that enable and protect its customers' business-critical technology infrastructures. Backed by the largest global services organization in the industry, Emerson Network Power offers a full range of innovative power, precision cooling and connectivity products and services for computer, communications, healthcare and industrial systems. Key product brands within the Emerson Network Power family include Liebert, ASCO, Astec, and Lorain. The Liebert Adaptive Architecture creates power, cooling and monitoring platforms for IT systems that combine high reliability and flexibility while delivering the lowest total cost of ownership. For more information on Liebert visit [www.Liebert.com](http://www.Liebert.com). For more information on the full spectrum of enterprise-wide solutions from Emerson Network Power, visit

## About Emerson

Emerson (NYSE: EMR), based in St. Louis, is a global leader in bringing technology and engineering together to provide innovative solutions to customers through its network power, process management, industrial automation, climate technologies, and appliance and tools businesses. Sales in fiscal 2007 were \$22.6 billion. For more information, visit [www.emerson.com](http://www.emerson.com).

## Contacts

Guy Lerner

+61 2 9929 7533

mailto: [guy.lerner@watterson.com.au](mailto:guy.lerner@watterson.com.au)