



Media Release

NORTH Link & RMIT University: Reducing Environment Impacts & Saving Businesses Dollars

Tuesday November 15, 2011. On Friday November 11, at a high level presentation event at RMIT University's Bundoora campus, final year Bachelor of Engineering and Master of Engineering (Sustainable Energy) students from the university presented over 20 outstanding case studies and projects that were undertaken with 16 businesses from Melbourne's north over the past year.

The title of the event and presentations by the students was *"Reducing energy costs and emissions in the new carbon economy era."*

In his welcome and introduction, Professor Aleksandar Subic, Head of RMIT University's School of Aerospace, Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering (SAMME) said it was important for universities to work collaboratively with business and industry to address the very real challenges of climate change, oil price instability and rapidly increasing energy costs.

The formal presentation program commenced with a practical display of RMIT University's pioneering success by event host and facilitator Associate Professor John Andrews, SAMME with a demonstration of a model hydrogen fuel cell truck.

In his address to the attendees, business representatives and senior staff, NORTH Link Executive Director Mr. Mick Butera congratulated the final year students for the standard of their exemplary achievements that successfully delivered quantifiable results measured in reduced energy costs and emissions for the local businesses that participated in the 2011 program.

NORTH Link has sponsored and supported the Industry Case Studies project with RMIT University's SAMME since 2004. In that first year, Mr. Butera confirmed that over 3,500 tonnes of emissions were reduced with a monetary saving of \$3M in energy costs for the participating businesses.

These benefits in both environmental and commercial savings provided the catalyst for NORTH Link's ongoing support for the project.

This year, the companies that participated in the program were –

- Air Services Australia
- Animal Land
- Austin Health
- Baxter Foods
- Capral
- Colonial First State
- Dolphin Products
- Edlyn Foods
- Innovia Films
- John Holland Air Services
- Melbourne Airport Corp
- Melbourne Water
- One Steel
- Schiavello
- Sealed Air Cryovac
- Sutton Tools

Continues...

“NORTH Link believes in this project as it provides a practical demonstration to companies that good environmental practices are beneficial for both the planet and climate whilst delivering long term commercial benefits for businesses,” said Mr. Butera.

Many of the businesses were represented at the presentation event by their owners and senior managers and several took the opportunity to commend the students for the high quality, excellence and thoroughness of their research, approach and practical outcomes / recommendations.

Responding on behalf of RMIT University, Associate Professor John Andrews, said he was very impressed with the response and accolades received by the students as it reflected their comprehensive approach to the identification of commercial / environmental problem(s); quantifying the long term costs and expenses to the company – and then delivering a practical workable solution that would provide substantial savings and the reduction of waste and green house gas emissions.

Reflecting on the seven year success of the reducing energy costs project, Mr. Butera said that to date over 140 students and an equivalent number of businesses have benefited from the initiative as the students are able to apply their knowledge and skills in practical situations.

In addition, many of the lessons, benefits, knowledge and outcomes achieved from the program since its inception have been transferred and applied by other businesses and industries with much success.

The value and importance of NORTH Link’s efforts was recently acknowledged in Engineers Australia, Victoria Engineering Excellence Awards for Initiatives that Shape our Future. The Awards recognise and showcase engineering excellence and receive wide recognition in industry, the engineering profession and community.

In his closing presentation, Mr. Butera announced that a report will be produced of the 2011 *Reducing energy costs and emissions in the new carbon economy era* project and will be made available in the very near future.

“It is NORTH Link’s hope that other universities throughout Australia are inspired by the achievements in Melbourne’s north by its partnership with RMIT University and introduce similar programs that provide such compelling commercial and environmental outcomes,” concluded Mr. Butera.

ENDS

Media release issued by NORTH Link www.melbournenorth.com.au

Media enquiries:

Mr. Joe Perri
Joe Perri & Associates Pty Ltd
Tel / fax: +61 3 9324 0362
Mobile: +61 412 112 545
Email: jperri@joeperri.com.au

Notes to Editor: Pictured below in the centre of the photo with the model hydrogen fuel cell truck are undergraduate Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical Engineering) students Sinan Aizad and Schalokh Saleem with NORTH Link Executive Director Mr. Mick Butera (left) and Associate Professor John Andrews, SAMME (right).

