

Defining the professional performance of engineers

A new system that defines the performance of professional engineers is being implemented in Australia. Known as the Professional Performance Innovation and Risk Protocol, the

system was developed by the Warren Centre for Advanced Engineering in Sydney. The centre has now set up a three-year program to implement the system.

Professionalism in engineering has

generally been described in terms of ethics and competency. The PPIR Protocol adds a third dimension so that professionalism in engineering becomes a concept covering ethics, competency and performance.



Education and training team leader Alexandra Meldrum with Thales Australia engineers Maurice Amzallag (l) and Peter Quinlan at the first PPIR pilot training session.



SEE YOUR FUTURE IN MANAGEMENT?

The **Chifley MBA (Technology Management)** is Australia's only MBA for engineers.

Learn more at: www.chifley.edu.au/PostgraduatePrograms

Phone: 1300 244 353 Email: mbainfo@chifley.edu.au

Chifley MBA & Postgrad Information Evenings

Melbourne Sydney Brisbane

03
MAY

05
MAY

19
MAY



CHIFLEY BUSINESS SCHOOL

The protocol defines and recognises performance, "how the professional work should be carried out and accomplished, and how ethical and competency issues should be addressed within that task-specific framework, in terms that are objectively determinable".

The protocol promises to make risk easier to manage, increase innovation in engineering and guide suppliers and users of engineering services on how to make the most effective use of professional engineers.

Developed over five years, the protocol has the support of sponsor companies and organisations, which are now donating their time and expertise to help its implementation through training workshops, conference participation, online and through the media.

Among those organisations are Leighton Holdings, GHD, Golder Associates, SKM, SMEC, Thales Australia, WorleyParsons, the Queensland Department for Transport and Main Roads, and the NSW Transport Construction Authority (TCA).

"We aim to engage the engineering profession and industry in an open discussion about PPIR. The training workshops and our LinkedIn site will be two key forums for this discussion. We have a

team established to assess and address feedback, particularly feedback from early adopters of PPIR," said Neil Benson of Golder Associates, who is leading the communications team for the protocol implementation.

"We have a strong focus on ensuring excellence in design and minimising the cost and risk of carrying out projects," said TCA's chief executive Chris Lock. "We believe PPIR will support these goals by giving greater certainty in working with engineering providers and establishing a strong framework for our own engineering staff."

A group of engineers from Thales Australia underwent the first PPIR pilot training session last month.

In opening the session, the company's vice-president for technology, research and development, Dr John Best, explained why he saw PPIR offering great benefits for his organisation: "While we already have a high focus on improving performance of the organisation, one missing element has been a bottom-up initiative to enhance the performance of individual engineers."

Similar interactive one-day workshops will be rolled out throughout 2011 and 2012, with the aim of expanding PPIR's

reach through a train the trainer scheme.

"One-day, hands-on workshops with teams from engineering organisations are our initial focus. We will also be working with universities to support the incorporation of PPIR education into engineering curricula," said Alexandra Meldrum from Engineers Australia's Centre for Engineering Leadership and Management, who is leading the education and training team for the protocol implementation.

"Any consultancy, contractor or manufacturer wanting to incorporate the PPIR Protocol into their engineering and management systems can be provided with a detailed information pack," she said.

Part of the PPIR strategy is to develop a corporate equivalent to the PPIR Protocol as an Australian Standard, which will support individual standards of performance by professional engineers.

For further information on PPIR visit www.ppir.com.au and join the "Implementing PPIR" group at www.linkedin.com. Any experienced and qualified trainers interested in helping with the implementation of PPIR can contact Alexandra Meldrum at almeldru@ozemail.com.au.

Call for Entries

Victorian ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE Awards 2011

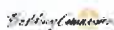
Engineers Australia, Victoria Division invites you to enter the Victorian Engineering Excellence Awards 2011. The Awards recognise outstanding and innovative Victorian engineering achievements.

The Victorian Engineering Excellence Awards (VEEA) offers an opportunity for businesses of all sizes, across a wide range of sectors to showcase their engineering achievements. The Awards will celebrate the world class standard of Victorian engineering at the black tie Awards Presentation Dinner on 22 September 2011.

Register to Enter Online by Monday 11 April 2011

Award entry details and instructions are available online at www.engineersaustralia.org.au/veea

AWARD CATEGORY SPONSORS



In 2011, entries will be accepted in the following categories*:

Engineering Excellence Award for **Smart Systems** sponsored by **South East Water**

Engineering Excellence Award for **Infrastructure** sponsored by **Valemus**

- Projects up to \$20 million
- Projects over \$20 million
- Projects over \$75 million

Engineering Excellence Award for **Environment** sponsored by **RMIT University**

Engineering Excellence Award for **Buildings & Structures** sponsored by **Building Commission**

- Projects up to \$10 million
- Projects over \$10 million
- Projects over \$80 million

Engineering Excellence Award for **Initiatives that Shape our Future** sponsored by **AusIndustry**

Engineering Excellence Award for **Product Design & Manufacturing** sponsored by **Swinburne University of Technology**

Engineering Excellence Award for **Research & Development / Innovation** sponsored by **Linking Melbourne Authority & State Government of Victoria**

* Applicants may enter multiple categories