

PBA NEWS

PBA News Issue 13 January 2018

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PBA - New Product Catalogue

Over the years, PBA has designed and supplied an extensive range of specialist tools for the Australasian market and for the first time this equipment is detailed in one handy downloadable catalogue. This also includes our acclaimed EcoGas 600 platform of SF₆ gas handling equipment and management software.

PBA's extensive product range includes a range of SF₆ fitting and handling kits, through to 'out in the field' gas handling and service equipment.

PBA offers a full customisation service to meet customer needs so don't hesitate to contact us to discuss your requirements.

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Power Industry Product Catalogue

pba

Tools for the Power Industry

pbanz.com

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PBA Awarded Meridian Five Year Cable Joint Maintenance and Monitoring Contract

PBA have been awarded a five year maintenance and monitoring contract for Meridian's Westwind and Te Uku wind farms.

This work engages PBA's specialist cable team to carry out periodic Thermography and visual inspections of all cables joints at the mid-level platform within each turbine, approximately 35 metres above ground level. Where required cable joints will be replaced with a new flexible design reducing wear and tear on the joints resulting from damaging wind events.

This activity highlights Meridian's proactive approach to asset maintenance through identifying and addressing potential issues before they impact generation performance.

All PBA staff working on this contract have now completed advanced height safety training courses, turbine evacuation training, and a structured competency based training programme to meet the requirements of the Wind Turbine Safety Rules.



2017 EEA Conference

PBA's attendance at this year's EEA conference continued the story of PBA innovation and leadership in the provision of specialist services and equipment to the industry.

This year PBA showcased two developments within the EcoGas 600 product platform. The first of the two was remote asset monitoring via online DGA systems and secondly, updates to the EcoGas 600 SF₆ Database which now provides a best practice Tier 3 level of SF₆ emission reporting.

In conjunction with our stand activity John Pringle – PBA's Technical Manager presented an industry paper on "Managing SF₆ Assets and Legislative Compliance" with a focus on Implementing a Data Management Solution. This paper was well received and highlighted to SF₆ asset owners that global activity in the management of climate change, brought about by the Paris Agreement, is continuing and requires an industry response to reduce SF₆ emissions further. It was additionally identified that there is a need for the industry to implement a more accurate data reporting regime.

A key benefit of adopting a best practice approach to SF₆ management is that not only is information secured for legislative compliance but valuable information to support asset management is secured by linking SF₆ maintenance activity to SF₆ asset performance.



PBA Complete Counties Power - Port Waikato 22kV/400V OHUG Project

Since August 2016, PBA have been assisting Counties Power with a range of works throughout their network. The most significant activity to date has been the Port Waikato OHUG cable jointing project.

In late January 2017, PBA's lead cable jointer, Tom Bromfield, was approached by the Counties Power project management team enquiring if PBA could assist with an accelerated overhead to underground works programme.

The scope of this project was to complete 30 breach joints, install 30 LV pillars; link boxes, along with the installation of 22kV ring main units and 22kV/400V berm sub transformers. Additionally, new underground cables were installed, tested and commissioned into 64 properties. The entire scope needed to be completed within nine weeks.

PBA mobilised and deployed a team of cable jointers and electrical fitters within two weeks, and commenced work mid-February 2017. The tight schedule required working closely with the Counties Power team carrying out civil works, cable pulling and co-ordinating outages. Both companies met every morning for safety and planning meetings. With a significant workload, a short timeframe and having to contend with unseasonably wet weather, the goal wasn't to work harder or faster, but to work safely and efficiently as one team.

In terms of progress; by the third week of March all 22kV and 400V assets had been commissioned. By the 25th of March, the final customer was changed over from overhead to underground which completed PBA's scope of work.

Working onsite with another company's staff and subcontractors can present various problems, however, PBA staff were impressed with the professionalism and attitude of the Counties Power team throughout the project and look forward to working closely with them in the future.



Update on Tom Wech - PBA Site Supervisor

In 2010 Tom Wech joined PBA as our first trainee in the newly implemented "Train and Retain" programme. This programme a demonstration of our core values and proof of our commitment to New Zealand by investing in the development of the next generation of HV Technical Specialists.

Over the intervening period, Tom's role has expanded and he now acts as a Site Supervisor for PBA projects. Tom's training included attaining external examinations as a Supply Electrician along with a range of specialist training courses in support of PBA business units which not only developed the level and breadth of skill required to service PBA customers but also gave Tom the opportunity to exercise his leadership skills.



PBA CEO Rob Silcock (left) and Tom Wech

PBA - Circuit Breaker Seminar

In February PBA hosted a one-day seminar at our Christchurch workshop for key users of 220kV SF₆ circuit breakers, with the objective of sharing industry knowledge and experience related to operation; maintenance and testing of these assets.

Attended by 20 engineers from across New Zealand, who participated in a series of practical workshops and presentations reviewing circuit breaker characteristics, typical failure modes as well as forensic analysis and testing solutions.

Positive feedback was received from participants who valued the forum as an effective means to discuss issues and solutions with industry peers in an open forum. The PBA team is looking forward to supporting additional industry based seminars in the future.



PBA - Electrical Energy Savings Through Target Setting and Action

PBA commitment to sustainability has been reaping rewards.

In PBA's 2016 Energy Sustainability Plan a three-tiered approach to achieving the agreed targets was identified through engaging team members through personal commitment; setting an energy consumption target and then putting a plan of action in place.

PBA undertook an upgrade of lighting systems to more efficient LED designs and installed Photovoltaic panels at our two largest workshops.

PBA's electrical energy consumption target for the 2016 calendar year was set at 900kWh per staff member and through the efforts

of staff, lighting system changes and the installation of photovoltaics, the year end consumption result was 642kWh per staff member. This was 258kWh below target. This equated to a reduction of 13.5 tonnes of CO₂ that could have been produced due to this electricity use and a decrease of 7.3 tonnes or 35% on the previous year.

The PBA PV panels installed in March and July of 2016 generated 12.15MWh of electricity by year end with 9.2MWh produced from the 10kW installation at the Christchurch workshop and 2.9MWh from the 5kW installation at the Porirua workshop.

