

Gathering of the clan

The 6th Yokogawa Australia/New Zealand User Conference was held in Melbourne from May 20 – 22, and drew attendance from the largest number of individual user companies and business partners to date.

A prominent focus of the conference, and the source of much user interest, was Yokogawa's newly-announced CENTUM VP production control system, the latest generation in the evolutionary line of control systems begun in 1975 with the original CENTUM system.

The keynote speaker was Masatoshi Nakahara, Vice President of the Industrial Automation Business at Yokogawa Electric Corporation, Japan, who was largely responsible for the development of CENTUM VP. He described the background to the new release and the proposed future direction of this flagship Yokogawa product. He explained that many exciting additions are already well advanced and will make a large contribution towards Yokogawa's goal of becoming the world's No. 1 automation provider by 2010.

A CENTUM VP demonstration system was available for a close-up view, and most delegates took advantage of the opportunity to become familiar with the latest technology.

In addition to CENTUM VP, a number of other Yokogawa innovative technologies were demonstrated in a series of small and personal demonstration sessions, which maximised the interaction between demonstrator and audience. Users moved from one demonstration system to another throughout the course of an afternoon in a new concept trialled for the first time at this conference, which proved popular with all delegates.

Technologies on display included Yokogawa's mesh wireless transmitter products, valve partial stroke testing with safety systems,

Companies that attended the 2008 User Conference:

AGL

Aker

Ausenco

Ausmelt

Barrick Gold

BHP Billiton

Bluescope Steel

BP

Chevron

Christchurch City

Council

Connel Wagner

CSBP

Eraring Energy

Flinders Power

Flowserve

GlaxoSmithKline,

Heatgate Resources

HIsmelt

I&E Systems

KCGM

Loy Yang Power

Macquarie

Generation

Minara Resources

Mipac

MTL Instruments

Newmont

Oceana

Stardom network controllers and RTU's, and Yokogawa's Plant Information Management Systems.

User presentations are always very popular, and this year was no exception. Many varied and interesting topics were covered including:

- network security
- remote access and engineering
- Foundation Fieldbus over existing instrument cabling
- safety system implementation
- partnering for mutual advantage
- simulation using CS3000
- instruments in extreme environments
- telemetry in the water industries

As usual, representatives from Yokogawa's corporate departments in Tokyo took back a list of prioritised development items – a 'wish list' of desired new products and extensions to existing products. Many of these valuable suggestions are expected to be adopted by Yokogawa's R&D department and incorporated in future product releases.

The highlight of the conference social activities was the dinner held at the world-famous Melbourne Cricket Ground. Before the meal, Conference delegates were taken on a tour of the team rooms, members' area including the famous Long Room, honour boards, and even down on to the surface of the hallowed turf itself. Dinner overlooking the floodlit ground was spectacular.

A limited number of CDs containing the presentations from the conference are still available. Contact Lindsay Hadland on lindsay.hadlan@au.yokogawa.com to request a copy.

Origin Energy
Pepperl+Fuchs
Provecta
Queensland
Alumina Rio Tinto
Samson Controls
Shell
Solvay Interox
Southern Oil
Tatura Milk
TeamTech, Tenix,
University of
Sydney
Xstrata