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Yokogawa Australia and Energy Brix Australia Corporation win prestigious industry award

Yokogawa Australia and its customer Energy Brix Australia Corporation have won the 2009 PACE Zenith Award in the Transport, Power and Infrastructure category. This is the third year in a row that a Yokogawa Australia project has won a Zenith Award.

This year's award was for the project to modernise the control systems at the Energy Brix power station in Morwell, Victoria. Completed in 2008, the project was successful in:

- reducing station operating costs
- generating additional power for export
- improving plant operating flexibility
- providing modern conditions for plant operators
- reducing station operating and maintenance costs
- improving plant emissions.

“This project was quite remarkable for the complexity and innovation of the engineering involved in installing 21st century control systems technology onto older plant,” said John Hewitt, Managing Director of Yokogawa Australia. “Not only has the project increased the reliability of the electricity supply, it has done so while simultaneously improving protection of the plant, reducing maintenance costs and optimising the use of raw fuels.”

Yokogawa has been providing control systems for power plants for many years. Energy Brix presented some unique challenges, particularly for Yokogawa's younger engineers.

Some of them were working for the first time with a power plant equipped with steam ranges and pass-out turbines – where all boilers feed a common steam range supplying multiple turbines, some of which then supply a process steam range and a low pressure condensing turbine. This complex interactive configuration contrasts with most modern plants, where boilers and turbines are installed as unit plants in a much simpler one-to-one arrangement.

Another significant achievement of the project was the automated optimisation of energy used for total plant operation, replacing what had been a much more manual approach. This was made possible by the installation of digital controllers on the turbines and load sharing controllers on the boilers.

The PACE Zenith Awards were established in 2004 by *Process Control and Engineering (PACE)* magazine to publicly recognise companies that show leadership in engineering and technological excellence and innovation. The awards are presented annually, with a record number of entries received in 2009. Yokogawa projects have previously won awards in 2005, 2007 and 2008.