

CurrentAffairs

News and views from Ergo Consulting Ltd

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2020 Vision

I first had coffee in Carlton Gore Road with Chris and Nigel this time last year. Having built a successful business over the last ten years, they were looking for someone to help take Ergo to the next level. We talked about strategy and business development, growth and succession, governance and organisation and systems and processes. Over a number of weeks we found a shared view of what Ergo's future could look like. So since October, we have been working together on a plan. It's exciting!

Ergo aspires to be the first choice electrical engineering consultancy in New Zealand and is already a leading player in its chosen markets. Our focus is conceptual and detailed design, principally in the power and water sectors. We are not into building services. As we have no ambition to offer civil or mechanical engineering services, partnerships are important to us, particularly as we strive to become increasingly involved in larger and more complex projects.

Our five year strategy, our "2020 Vision", is to build on the successful platform already created by providing expert services to infrastructure and large industry organisations across New Zealand and South-east Australia. We will also leverage our design experience to provide more strategic and expert advice to benefit our existing relationships.

A board of directors has been established, and a separate team that will be responsible for the day-to-day management and operation of the business. We are already recruiting, not just to deal with our current workload, but also to help generate new relationships in line with our plan. We have a very clear view of the future, and are already on our way there. All that coffee has been worth it. Maybe caffeine assists visual acuity.

Richard Cuthbert

Chairman of Ergo

Richard is a company director and advisor. He is a civil engineer by profession with more than thirty years' experience in engineering consultancy.



Client Function

The company's annual client function was held at Urban Café, Newmarket, in November. The Ergo team thanked the full turnout of clients and suppliers for another successful year.



Brett Hampson (2nd right) with Power Systems' Chris Turney, Steve Timmins and Richard Charles

Ambrose Golf Tournament

Control Systems and their Waikato clients took to the Horsham Downs golf club in February. The tournament has become an annual event with mixed teams competing over 9 holes. Team 'P=1' won the 2015 event. Although they did not quite live up to their name, they got close with a one over par on the day.



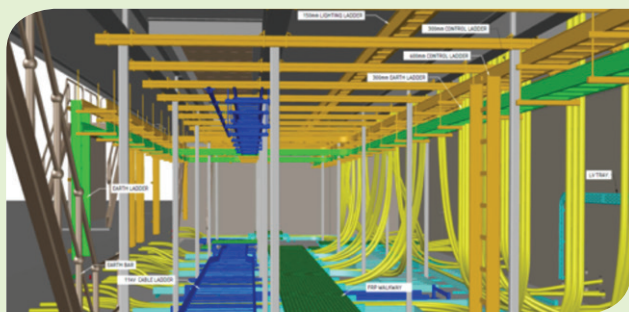
Control Systems after a successful day on the greens

Auditing HV Cable Systems

Senior Power Systems engineer Raj Chand shares his thoughts on HV cable systems – why comprehensive reviews are critical, the environment in which power asset owners operate and the benefits of audits.

Critical Cables

HV cable systems are a high proportion of a utility's asset base and a critical component of a power network. For various reasons the condition and performance characteristics of existing cable circuits may not be well understood. This represents a significant business risk, one which a prudent network owner would seek to mitigate.



Economic and regulatory environment

Electricity utilities and other power asset owners are coming under increasing scrutiny from stakeholders as well as pressure from industry regulators. The benefit of new assets must be proven before they are installed to networks. It is expected that line charges to consumers remain as low as possible while security of supply is maintained. In the current environment assets need to be fully utilised and an N-1 level of supply to customers maintained.

Audit benefits

A comprehensive review of HV cable systems has three main benefits:

- It is a vital component of due diligence investigations to identify and mitigate critical asset risks
- It allows an asset owner to understand the performance limits of HV cable circuits in a wide range of scenarios
- Assets can be optimally utilised for continuous, cyclic and emergency operating conditions.

Ergo's role

Ergo has been working with utilities and industrial clients to identify the condition and performance of critical cable circuits. The Power Systems team uses specialist cable modelling software and has demonstrable expertise in the area of HV cable systems.

Raj is a Chartered Professional Engineer and on the National Professional Engineers Register in Australia. Before joining Ergo he worked for Australian and United Kingdom consultancies.

New@Ergo



Richard Cuthbert has worked principally in the United Kingdom but also on assignments throughout the world. He has held senior leadership positions for large consultancies (Atkins and Mouchel). Since relocating to New Zealand two years ago, he has continued a long-term association with the Downer Group. He was Executive General Manager for Downer's subsidiary Spiire New Zealand Limited, overseeing its sale to Calibre in January 2014, and is currently helping position Downer NZ for forthcoming transport projects that will be delivered as Public Private Partnerships.



Nick Carson joined Control Systems in November 2014. He will graduate from Auckland University with BE(Hons) this May. He started his degree in his late twenties, so brings life experience to his role. He is currently on secondment to one of Ergo's client companies.



Over summer the Power Systems department appointed two engineers – **Janhavi Kale** graduated from Auckland University in 2014 with First Class Honours and then worked for Fisher & Paykel Healthcare as a product development engineer. She is relishing the opportunity Ergo affords her to broaden her engineering experience.



The other addition to Power Systems is **Jack Stainton**. He will graduate with a BE (Hons) from Canterbury University in April, having already completed a BSc in Electronics. He is passionate about rowing, and was President of the University of Canterbury Rowing Club. Over the summer of 2013-14 he worked for Izon Science Limited and then part-time for the company through 2014 while he completed his studies.

Janhavi and Jack are currently assisting Soumya Sridhara and Amrita Sharma with detailed design, computer modelling and switchgear specifications.

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