

# CurrentAffairs

News and views from Ergo Consulting Ltd

Issue 29 - Spring 2018

## Ergo – the next phase

The 31st of August marked a significant milestone in Ergo's history. That was the day when our Control Systems Department, led by Nigel Stevenson, Director and 50% owner of Ergo for the last 12 years, was spun off to create a new company – Neo Engineering Consultancy Ltd. Neo is now operating as a separate, industrial control systems company, leaving Ergo to focus on power systems engineering. This "demerger" marked the next phase of Ergo's development. It was a natural progression for what has become a very successful business, with two flourishing departments which have each forged their own direction and independent future. Ergo and Neo will however be maintaining a close relationship.

The restructuring of the company will involve some changes for Ergo in the background. We will contact all of our stakeholders about this in the next few weeks. However, we expect that most of you will see little change, save for the continued expansion and development of the business. The first step in that journey is the establishment of Ergo's in-house civil and structural engineering capability (see below). This is a move that we have been contemplating for some

time – and one that has become possible as a result of our demerger.

We are really excited about the future. At the end of August, our staff numbers and revenue were at record levels. Our expertise is increasingly in demand from an ever-wider range of clients in the North and South Islands, all of whom are upgrading, renewing or developing their infrastructure and who recognise the quality of engineering and advice that we offer. Although we are now very much towards the end of the current economic cycle, we believe that good market conditions are set to continue for some time yet.

We look forward to continuing to share the journey with all of you, as Ergo enters its next phase.

**Richard Cuthbert**  
Chairman



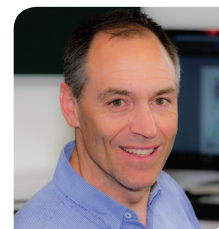
## Civil and structural engineering

In the power systems and energy markets, Ergo usually takes the lead consultant role on projects, sub-contracting a range of specialist engineering skills to one or more players. As part of our de-merger strategy, we decided to launch Ergo's own civil and structural engineering department. Previously outsourced to a number of partners, we see significant benefits in terms of design quality, consistency and efficiency, in having this capability in-house. In most cases we will now be taking direct responsibility for civil and structural engineering and for managing specialist sub-consultants in planning and in environmental and geotechnical engineering. We will however continue to work with our existing partners for some clients or in selected regions.

We were therefore delighted to welcome Steve Gaskin to Ergo on August 20th as our new Head of Department for Civil and Structural Engineering. Steve brings a wealth of experience in the design of infrastructure for power and electrical projects, having undertaken design work for many of NZ's distribution companies and for Transpower. Many of these projects involved supporting Ergo from

his previous employer, Calibre Consulting. Steve already knows Ergo well and has hit the ground running. He was joined by Nigel Stent in mid-September; and Shashi Patel comes on board at the beginning of October, both also from Calibre, as we ramp up the team. Our plans assume that we will be appointing intermediate and graduate engineers and additional CAD staff during the coming months.

Ergo's civil and structural team will also be undertaking work in other related sectors where the team has strong track record, including industrial/commercial buildings and aid projects in the Pacific Islands.



## New Staff

Four new members of staff have joined us in the last few months, with two of these returning to Ergo after time away.

### David Fraser

David has rejoined us, having been with Ergo from 2013-2016. David has experience in secondary design and network modelling projects. He has an interest in protection studies and is keen to develop as a protection engineer and power system analyst. Congratulations to David and Nina on the birth of their new baby boy, Emilio.



### Aleksandr Zernov

Aleksandr has relocated to NZ from Russia and joined the Power Team as an Engineer. He is an experienced electrical engineer with 14 years' experience in commissioning, maintenance and design of network protection, as well as power systems fault analysis, relay configuration and settings for distribution networks. Aleksandr has worked in various plants and substations from the Middle East to the Arctic Circle and from offshore platforms in the Pacific Ocean to nuclear power plants. In his spare time Aleksandr likes driving and spending time by the sea.



### Daniel Adams-Zarate

Daniel is of Brazilian descent and is based in our Christchurch office. Daniel has worked within the electrical industry since 2005 when he started an electrical apprenticeship. Daniel attributes this early work experience as providing a sound understanding of buildable design concepts and his ability to communicate effectively. He worked in Ergo's Auckland office in 2014 - 2016 and has experience in the field of transmission, distribution, industrial electrical and controls systems from specification, design, construction, testing, commissioning and project management



### Stefano Contini

Stefano is from Sangiano in Italy and moved to New Zealand with his family in June 2017. He joins Ergo from Vector and is an Autodesk certified professional in AutoCAD with a background as an electrical design drafter with 15 years' experience. This includes projects for the renewable energy industry, power generation industry, rail projects and building projects. He enjoys playing football in a local team and spending time with his wife and daughter.



## Chris' 60th Party

One of the major projects for 2018 was organising a surprise birthday lunch for Chris Turney's big 60th. The biggest challenge was to keep him in Auckland and yet out of the office for the whole morning of his birthday. Carroll (his better half) helped us by taking him out for a late brunch on his birthday. Also we were able to organise a morning meeting involving Chris at a client's office until noon. With all plans in place, we thought we had it all sorted. However we missed a critical aspect of project management – identifying RISKS! Being the social bunny he is, Mr. Turney ended up organizing his own lunch with his friends on his birthday. Lucky for us, Carroll was invited as well so she suggested to Chris that they all meet at Ergo. It took a little bit of reorganising to cater for additional guests that we had not anticipated!

### Outcomes

- Chris was happy and surprised – successful project
- His desk was wrapped up so he couldn't work in the afternoon (a real bonus, especially after wine tasting, for which we had arranged special H&S dispensation)



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