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WTIA National Diffusion Networks Project (NDNP) funded by the Federal and State and Territory Governments and industry



AusIndustry

SUCCESS STORY NUMBER R04: FABRICATORS IN THE VICTORIAN RAIL INDUSTRY BENCHMARK THEIR PERFORMANCE – *Mini project supports the Vlocity fast trains*

Mini-project for Rail ISP

During the period of the National Diffusion Networks Project, a mini-project within the Rail Industry Sectoral Project was undertaken to carry out assessments on fabricators in Victoria.

Bombardier Transportation is the main Contactor on the Fast Train Project, and a consortium of smaller fabricators, Australian Rail Manufacturers (ARM) was set up to pre-fabricate a number of sub-assembly components before main assembly in the Dandenong workshops.

Quality welding

AS/NZS ISO 3834 *Quality Requirements for Fusion Welding of Metallic Material – Part 2, Comprehensive Requirements* was chosen as the most appropriate standard for assessment purposes, and the mini-project was supported by Bombardier Transportation and the Victorian Department of Industry, Innovation and Regional Development.

The three Fabricators involved were:

- Southport Engineering
- CP Engineering
- Actco Pickering

The assessments were carried out by WTIA Engineer, Alan Bishop, over a two-day period in each company, and involved personnel from a diverse range of departments from the Managing Director, Projects, Contracts, Production, Quality and Stores.

In the case of Southport Engineering and Actco Pickering, both companies already had ISO 9000 Accreditation which meant that they already had a documented system. Both companies were found to comply with at least 75% of the AS/NZS ISO 3834 requirements, and the recommendations made enabled them to improve the existing system.

In the case of CP Engineering, they were working towards ISO 9000 accreditation and so had no formal system. Many of the requirements of AS/NZS ISO 3834 and ISO 9000 were being implemented, even though they were not fully documented. The assessment allowed CP Engineering to highlight all the areas where procedures were still outstanding and to set up systems to address areas lacking in control. CP Engineering has since achieved ISO 9000 accreditation.

Outcomes

There is no doubt that the quality of the work in terms of tolerance, distortion, appearance and delivery has improved over the life of the Project.

The group's welding standards were also assessed by a European rail manufacturers' Welding Engineer who visited ARM plants following the WTIA detailed assessment. The engineer supported the WTIA assessment of ARM's capabilities by approval of acceptance of ARM as a pre-registered tenderer for their next major project.

In addition ARM has made a decision to seek full accreditation to ISO 3834 and EN 729 (European Union equivalent to ISO 3834) by late 2006 as this will be their welding standard applied to the successful tender.



Vlocity car under test in Dandenong

For further information contact: The Technology Transfer Coordinator, WTIA PO Box 6165 SILVERWATER NSW 1811 Tel: 02 9748 4443 Fax: 02 9748 2858 Email info@wtia.com.au