

Australian Industry **ozWELD**

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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 PE01: NT SMALL COMPANIES ACHIEVE INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION – *with support from the WTIA and NT Government, three SMEs have raised their competitiveness through quality welding management systems*

First in Australia

Three Northern Territory SME fabricators, Universal Engineering, Topline Steel Fabrications and A&B Welding Pty Ltd have become the first companies in Australia to achieve international recognition for their welding quality management systems.



Staff from Universal Engineering, Topline Steel Fabrications and A&B Welding Pty Ltd with Minister Paul Henderson (6th from left)

The companies were assisted by the WTIA Technology Manager in the Territory, and were audited by TWI Certification Ltd from Cambridge in the UK last June.

All three companies were successful and received certification to AS/NZS ISO 3834, ISO 3834 and EN 729 " Quality requirements for welding - Fusion welding of metallic materials" – a first in Australia.

Demand for Qualified Personnel

WTIA has been working closely with SMEs in and round Darwin and also with the NT Government and local training providers to help to build up the number of skilled personnel to service this boom and to keep fabrication work on-shore.

A&B specialise in the fabrication and installation of high pressure gas, fuel, oil, water and steam piping and pipelines for both onshore and offshore projects.

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Benefits to the Companies

Achievement of this certification enhances the three companies' competitiveness for both local and overseas contracts as these Standards are being called up more and more frequently in project specifications.

NT is currently enjoying unprecedented economic growth with significant projects in the oil and gas, fabrication, pipeline and rail industries contributing to a surge in activity in the welding-related industries.

Projects of this type require quality, timely and cost efficient work – just what these three companies and their employees have proven they can provide.

NT Government Initiatives

The NT Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development (DBIRD), through Minister Paul Henderson, and other departments are working closely with the Institute and its Technology Manager based in Darwin to assist local industry to improve its performance and global competitiveness.

The WTIA Project contributes significantly to the NT Manufacturing Industry Strategy, *Making it in the Territory*, which outlines the major steps needed to be taken together to capitalise on the exciting new manufacturing opportunities and build on those within the existing manufacturing sector.

