

PRESS RELEASE

Thomson Bridge Announces CREATION OF ESI ACADEMY

Thomson Bridge has become a trusted partner to the Electrical Supply Industry (ESI) sector, and are ready to take the next step and invest in the establishment of an ESI Academy to better overcome skills shortages, provide pathways for new and experienced workers, develop new training programs and supporting learning tools to meet the evolving needs of workforce competency in this increasingly complex and dynamic industry.

Thomson Bridge is a leader in the provision of training services to the Australian ESI, and the Academy is our commitment to a long-term approach to fostering the development of a skilled workforce to meet the needs of Australia's evolving Energy landscape.

and heavy electrified rail infrastructure, as Covid-19 restricts workforce mobility globally. At the same time, the ESI training market has historically been thin and not well serviced due to the relatively small cohorts and the complexity of delivery and assessment.

With the capability and expertise Thomson Bridge can bring to the table it is a perfect opportunity for a commitment from us to invest in our business to deliver the skilled workforce to ensure the success of current and planned nation-building ESI projects.

The Academy represents a step up in the provision of a full suite of electrical advisory and training services. Thomson Bridge's General Manager, and VET advocate, Richard Harvey says, "We must invest now in skills and training for an ESI industry that is booming in the next ten years. The VET system's role is to deliver the skilled workforce to ensure this investment boom is successful, both technically and financially".



Managing Director, Lisa Parkinson, says "the time is right for investment in skills and training for the ESI industry. Substantial public and private investment are planned and underway as the Australian Energy Market transitions to a broader generation technology mix of thermal, renewables, battery storage and distributed energy generation. Projects such as AEMO's integrated system plan, the NSW Transmission Development plan, Victoria's Big Build, Snowy 2.0, state based Renewable Energy Zones are all driving growth and demand for jobs within the sector and the pipeline of skilled workers to support the investment is not yet in place."

A skills shortage is rapidly emerging as ESI projects progress alongside construction and upgrades to light



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Governments, State and Federal, are looking to invest in skills as a response to the economic downturn related to the pandemic restrictions, and also to support regional economies impacted by the devastation caused by drought, bushfires, floods and now Covid-19 in 2020. The JobTrainer package is the Federal Government's centerpiece program, but each State is looking to support skills and training in key areas as a boost to economic growth and to support the infrastructure projects for which investment is already committed. The Thomson Bridge ESI Academy will work with State Governments to identify the key skills required

to support ESI investment in their States, and ensure these courses are funded in a way that drives participation of young and motivated cohorts.

A comprehensive electrical skills and advisory service offering will be packaged together under the banner of the Thomson Bridge ESI Academy. Lisa Parkinson highlighted that, "our Academy will deliver key accredited Qualifications from the industry training packages for the Transmission, Distribution and Rail sector, and the ESI Generation sector, from initial Apprenticeship programs in Cable Jointing and overhead line maintenance, through to high end technical control room skills using the latest in network simulation software packages."

Training delivery will be flexible, with a mix of onsite and classroom training supported by industry site visits, thorough compliance training, electronic logbook tools, and accessible professional online materials. Thomson Bridge's cloud based and free compliance management tool, "The Bridge", will mean all training records and proof of attainment will be easily accessible for Network and Asset Owners.

Thomson Bridge has established the capability, through targeted recruitment of industry professionals, to deliver high quality training across all the key hands-on roles in the Electrical Supply Industry. Experienced personnel come from Thermal and Renewable Power Generators, Transmission asset owners and contractors, Distribution network operators, and the Rail Traction industry. These staff are complemented by experienced training Managers, and a team of young, digitally competent Engineers and creatives to produce contextualised, flexible, and engaging training courseware solutions.

Thomson Bridge is responding to the needs of the ESI and our partner clients in launching the Thomson Bridge ESI Academy. The Academy will be a comprehensive, strategic centre of excellence for skills and safety for this vital national industry, and we are excited to undertake this journey.

For more information on how Thomson Bridge can assist your organisation please contact our team at info@thomsonbridge.com, or call us on **1300 15 66 85**.