

“People and skills powering Australia’s future”



MARCH 2012 - QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER (following 1 March, 2012 meeting of Board)

To enhance communication with API members and Partner Universities this Quarterly Newsletter is prepared immediately following API Board meetings to advise of the key decisions and actions taken at Board meetings and to advise of planned actions to address the skills shortage in power engineering.

TOPIC/ISSUE	NOTES/OUTCOMES/DECISION	FUTURE ACTION
1. Review of Current API Strategic and Action Plans	<p>1 University partners briefed the Board on their vision for power engineering at their university and nationally – also provided feedback/ideas on current strengths and improvement opportunities</p> <p>2. A number of new initiatives were identified including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - explore partnership opportunities with Engineers Without Borders - develop a vision and approach for the future of power engineering education and research system for Australia - facilitate cross organisational exchanges for graduate power engineers by leveraging/sharing the experience of member organisations who have been doing this. - canvas industry requirements for technical masterclasses - investigate OFGEM innovation funding incentive program to assess applicability to Australian regulatory environment 	<p>2. -Develop mutually agreeable activities for partnership with EWB.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Document a paper with key stakeholder drivers/environment analysis and then propose options for vision and approach - survey of member organisations to be undertaken to obtain technical Masterclass requirements in June.
2. Assessment of Research Proposals received from Universities for Funding by API over 3-4 years beginning 2012/13	<p>1. The following research proposals were selected as best meeting industry stated priorities and university critical mass of research capability to undertake:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integration and Performance of Intermittent Generation in Distribution Networks (UOW, UQ, CURTIN) - Asset Utilisation and Optimisation (UQ, CURTIN, UNSW) - Transforming Electricity to a Customer Facilitated Demand Supply Balance (QUT, UNewcastle, USYD, RMIT) 	CE to work with research clusters to coordinate industry input and funding for these potential research proposals.
3. API Power Engineering Summer School (Residential) 19th February to 2nd March 2012	<p>1. The Board noted the positive feedback received from delegates at the API 2012 Summer School and the success of the model used over the past 4 years.</p> <p>2. The Board endorsed the recommendation to hold the API 2013 Summer School in Adelaide, SA.</p>	CE to commence organising API 2013 Summer school and involve local members from industry in SA on Steering Group.

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	3. The Board recommended that the Summer School be held in on of the large eastern States (NSW, VIC, QLD) every alternate year.	
4.API Submission to “Inquiry into the Shortage of Engineering and Related Employment Skills”	1. The Board noted the comprehensive submission made by API and looked forward to the opportunity to personally present to the Senate Committee.	1.CE to forward copies of submission to all API Member CEO’s/MD’s and key contacts. 2. CE to promote/present on submission at series of breakfast meeting in capital cities across Australia in March.
9. Next meeting	MONDAY 30 APRIL, 12 noon -5pm QUT, Gardens Point, Brisbane	

Prepared by: Mike Griffin
10 March, 2012