

“People and skills powering Australia’s future”

MARCH 2011 - QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER (following 3 March 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
<p>1.API Strategic plan Review including Input from University Representatives</p>	<p>The API Board received input from university representatives on the evening before the Board annual Strategic Plan Review Session.</p> <p>The Board believed the major points/issues raised consistently by the university group were:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.A critical mass of academic power engineering expertise is needed at universities to sustain a power engineering school producing good quality graduates 2.API initiatives such as bursary program and curriculum development have brought power academics together to work collaboratively 3.University academics have three key stakeholders: students, university and industry – and they need to satisfy all these. 4.API CRC Bid is strongly supported but the Board needs to not lose the momentum if the CRC Bid is unsuccessful – need to have a back up plan (not to lose the momentum gained to date). <p>The Board also provided the following feedback to the university representatives for their consideration:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.The universities vision for the future of a world class power engineering school (what would its attributes/characteristics be) was not clearly articulated and communicated (a strong vision was lacking – merely stating that more money/resources are needed is not enough) 2.The universities have come a long way towards a more collaborative model both between the universities and with industry and the API encourages that further – even stronger collaboration is needed. Only through increased collaboration will we succeed in achieving our shared vision. 	<p>CE will capture ideas and inputs from API Board members and prepare a Draft Strategic Action Plan for 2011- 2015</p>

Mike Griffin – Chief Executive API

Mobile: 0419 643 795

Email: mcgriffin@caloundra.net.au

Web: www.api.edu.au

www.powerengineering.org.au

	<p>3.A number of universities proposed “leading power groups” and whilst API shares the goal of excellence in the power engineering university sector the industry also has needs for that strength to be geographically dispersed to help industry to attract and retain world class graduates. Hence API’s preference for a collaborative model spanning a number of specialised power schools in a number of different locations and to support some key regional universities.</p> <p>4.The universities understanding/commitment to deliver results for industry (through high quality graduates and targeted research) which will improve the performance/bottom line (profit) of businesses was not mentioned. An appreciation of industry business drivers seems to be lacking by universities (and a concern that this will impact on students being best prepared for work in the industry).</p> <p>5.The API Board has agreed to continue with its funding of power engineering education (laboratories and early career academics) where they align with the delivery of the API Strategic plan and re-affirmed its approach to pay funded projects on completion.</p>	
2. API Power Engineering Summer School (Residential) 2011	<p>1. The 2011 API Summer School was progressing well with 63 delegates and the standard of presentations extremely high/well received from delegates.</p> <p>The Board endorsed the proposal for the API 2012 Summer School to be held in Victoria.</p>	
3. API/Australian Power Academy Amalgamation.	<p>1. The Board received the report from CE on the amalgamation of API with APA and that the amalgamation was completed on 1 January, 2011.</p> <p>2. The CE advised that 2 new Board members were elected unopposed in the General Industry sector, these being Barry Finlay (Aurecon) and Ed Wilson (Wilson Transformers)</p>	
4. API Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) Bid.	<p>1. The CE provided the Board with a progress report on CRC Bid activities with positive responses received from 7 member companies to fund the CRC.</p>	<p>The API CRC Steering Group will work with CRC Bid Management Team to prepare documentation required for the CRC Bid.</p>

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5. API Request for Proposals from Universities for Funding in 2011/12 Financial Year.	1. The Board established a assessment panel consisting of Chris Arnold, Brett Hooper, Mike Griffin, Ed Wilson and Peter Wright to review University Proposals received and make recommendations for funding in 2011/12 to the May, 2011 Board meeting	
6.API Workforce Planning Survey	1. CE will send approved Workforce Planning Survey to API Member companies to obtain latest information on power engineering workforce resourcing.	
6. Next meeting (in conjunction with TechCon Asia Pacific 2011)	10 MAY, 2011 – Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre	

Prepared by: Mike Griffin
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