

The Australian power engineering sector's national Institute welcomes new CEO

The Australian Power Institute's Board is excited to announce the appointment of Dr David Pointing as our new Chief Executive Officer. David will commence in the role from December 2019, taking over from inaugural CEO Mike Griffin.

Today we announce the conclusion of our search for the new API CEO and celebrate the appointment of our next leader, Dr David Pointing

Chair of the API Board, Wayne Tucker says, "After a very successful first fifteen years led by Mike Griffin, the API is entering a new phase. We are excited to have David joining the API as the new CEO. David brings a wealth of experience in working with employers, the Tertiary and broader education sector and the energy industry to build a pipeline of future professional engineering and technology talent so that we can continue to support communities, maintain competitiveness and to develop new opportunities".

David is a Chartered engineer and seasoned executive, leader and strategist, with 20+ years experience in the engineering sector covering private, tertiary, energy and NGO and not-for-profit sectors and a career focus on sustainable development and energy solutions and initiatives that build capacity and capability in communities.

David's background includes a PhD on wind-hydrogen energy systems for Antarctic operations, working with the UN Environment Program on supporting Arctic communities to introduce sustainable energy systems, and almost 10 years with Engineers Australia in roles focused on building a capable and diverse engineering workforce.

In speaking about the role, David shared *"I am very excited to be joining the API - it has a very important role in the power sector and under Mike and the Board's leadership has successfully shaped a generation of power engineering and technology professionals. I am honoured to have the opportunity to build on the strong foundations that Mike and the partner organisations have created in the API."*

"I am passionate about enhancing the capabilities of our energy sector and strengthening career pathways for power engineering and technology students and graduates," says David. "I am thrilled to be taking on the CEO role at such a significant time for the Australian community, our energy sector, and for the professional power engineering and technology workforce. We face many challenges and significant opportunities such as disruptive changes in technology, community expectations, markets and workforce and I look forward to contributing to solutions with the API"

Founder and inaugural CEO of the Australian Power Institute, Mike Griffin says *"I'm proud to see the API enter its next chapter with a strong team of partners and staff."*

David will transition into the role from early December 2020 and Mike will formally step away from the API at the end of March 2020.

About David, the API's new CEO

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See more at www.API.edu.au

David is an engineering-sector executive and leader with extensive experience in creating and delivering projects and initiatives that build capacity and capability in communities, with a focus on sustainable development solutions and energy systems.

David has a deep portfolio of skills and experience in program development, project management, business development, stakeholder engagement, and the creation of collaborative solutions, including research and development projects, tertiary education and workforce development initiatives.



David's key career achievements include:

- Research into the use of wind and hydrogen energy technologies to support remote area power systems and operations (using the case studies of Antarctic research communities of the Australian and Norwegian governments),
- Developing international partnerships focused on empowering communities to access sustainability solutions for the UN Environment Program (based in Copenhagen),
- Establishing a strategic program to drive national and international engagement with the Tertiary sector for Australia's professional body for engineers (Engineers Australia), and
- Leading workforce development initiatives for the engineering sector in Tasmania as the state General Manager for Engineers Australia (following a decade of involvement as an active volunteer member).
- Teaching university courses on engineering ethics, sustainability, engineering design and project management to undergraduate and Masters level student engineers.

David has qualifications in Materials Engineering (UNSW), Antarctic Studies (UTAS) and completed a PhD (UTAS) on the implementation of sustainable energy solutions in isolated communities.

David is a Fellow of Engineers Australia and a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, has been recognized with the EngExec credential, and is Chartered in engineering leadership and management.

David is originally from Sydney and is now based in Tasmania with his wife and two children.

Celebrating the API's Achievements under the leadership of Mike Griffin, API CEO 2007-2019

The Australian Power Institute: Connecting People and Skills to Power Australia's Energy Future

The Australian Power Institute (API) represents major Australian power companies in providing future professional power engineering capability whose vision is: "To deliver a sustainable supply of highly skilled power engineering professionals working effectively to meet the challenges of Australia's emerging energy future and to support the technical and commercial success of member companies in the energy sector"



The key objectives of API are:

1. Provide a sustainable supply of quality power engineering graduates to energy industry
2. Facilitate a strong power engineering education platform
3. Coordination of industry and university innovation initiatives

Through the efforts and leadership of Mike and the API Board, and with support from partner organisations and stakeholders, the API's significant achievements over the past ~15 years include:

API Bursary Program

Flagship annual program to attract undergraduate students to careers in the energy industry by undertaking engineering and technology courses/degrees:

- 545+ graduates from API Bursary Program in the last 10 years
- 855+ vacation placements for API Bursary students with member companies whilst undertaking their undergraduate degree
- 50+ bursary award events in each State in the last 10 years to recognise new API Bursary recipients and provide networking opportunities for students with industry.

API Annual Summer School

The pre-eminent career development program for engineering and technology industry professionals who have been recognised as potential future leaders/managers:

- Featuring inspiring presenters, syndicate leaders, field tours and keynote presenters for the annual 2 week Summer School
- 580+ industry professionals have attended the Summer School over the last 10 years
- Consistent 100% response from Summer School delegates to feedback question "would you recommend this to your colleagues/managers"

20 open-source undergraduate Curriculum modules

Led a university and industry collaboration to obtain Federal Government funding for a project to produce 20 undergraduate curriculum modules which are freely available to all university academics in Australia with a commitment to energy related engineering and technology

Investment in labs, teaching & equipment by API Funding Program, 2007– 2012

Collaboration with universities across Australia to address the gap in industry expectations and graduate attributes by working to improve energy engineering laboratories and equipment and teaching outcomes:

- \$3.4M was provided by API to fund 55 projects at 19 universities during this period
- The quality of laboratories at universities has increased substantially and industry survey of graduate skills meeting expectations has improved

STEM career pathways

Collaborated with other associations to increase the pipeline and diversity of school students to consider a career in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM):

- API Sponsorship of ATSE STELR Program, the only in curriculum program to reach year 6-10 students which has grown to over 700 schools and reach over 100,000 students (including arranging API Bursary students to attend STELR schools or the API Sponsored Solar Car Challenge)
- Championed women in engineering initiatives and participated on Advisory Board of UQ Women in Engineering initiative
- Collaborated with ATSE STELR project to initiate the “Day in the Life Project” to create a curiosity around STEM knowledge and skills through providing a program that provides awareness of how STEM careers impact the world immediately around a child’s day to day life i.e. through their daily routine.
- Initiated an API Indigenous Scholarship Program in collaboration with GO Foundation

Innovation and R&D

Facilitated industry and university engagement on innovation and research & development activities:

- Lead a 12 month project to make a Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) Bid with API Member companies and 7 universities which unfortunately was unsuccessful
- Initiated and managed UQ API/Powerlink Chair in Electricity Transmission 5 year arrangement
- Lead and developed a collaboration with Energy Networks Australia to initiate an Innovation Framework
- Secretary of API & ENA Innovation Framework and facilitator of over 7 innovation project scoping teams to prepare business cases for ENA AMC approval
- Initiated inaugural API Energy Innovation Summit in 2019 with over 40 representatives from industry and 40 representatives from researchers/academics from 11 universities

Establish and lead the API

Established the API and managed the API’s business activities including governance, financial, resource, risk and legal obligations:

- Total expenditure from 2007 of approx. \$18m averaging over \$1m per annum, and robust financial reserves
- Compliance with regulatory requirements
- Prepared a submission for Australian Senate Enquiry into Shortage of Engineering and Related Employment Skills (2012).
- Managed amalgamation of Power Engineering Alliance into API in 2008/09
- Managed amalgamation of Power Academy into API in 2010/11
- Managed various consultant/contracting resources to undertake work for API on a project basis
- Developed an effective working team with Marketing & Communications Officer, K.Klingaman, to undertake all aspects of API activities.

Industry and Tertiary sector connections and collaborations

A broad portfolio of events and activities to strengthen connections and engagement within the power engineering industry and with students and educators and researchers in the tertiary sector, including:

- Masterclasses
- Conferences
- Networking functions and events