

## **Conference to probe energy delivery solutions for the 21<sup>st</sup> century**

An international electricity and gas networks conference in Melbourne this year will position Australia at the forefront of global innovation in meeting new challenges of energy transmission and distribution.

The Energy 21C conference will be held at the new Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre from 6 to 9 September 2009.

Up to 2,000 delegates from Australia and overseas are expected to attend the conference to address the key themes of customers, climate change, networks and competencies.

Conference Chairman, Bob Smith, said Energy 21C would be the premier energy industry conference in the southern hemisphere this year with a focus on new electricity and gas transmission, distribution and supply solutions.

“Climate change and the impact of unprecedented global economic conditions present new challenges for energy distributors, suppliers and consumers alike,” Mr Smith said.

“These challenges to energy networks include extreme climate events such as floods, hot weather and fires.

“It will require planning, designing, managing and maintaining intelligent new networks for the future.

“The conference will explore asset management and technology issues that meet customer expectations for performance, not only in terms of reliable supply, but also in environmental sustainability benchmarks.

“In doing so, the industry will need to understand its customers and help them make informed decisions on gas and electricity supply and usage.

“The conference will also address future regulatory frameworks with a particular focus on best practice guidelines and reducing the carbon footprint.

“It will explore and share experiences of industry best practice in productivity, service provision and operations models.

“The gas industry has a significantly increased participation in Energy 21C. There will be a major conference stream dedicated to gas network growth, regulation, asset management and knowledge.”

Mr Smith said the energy transmission and distribution industry would increasingly rely on innovative people with latest skills and competencies.

“Energy 21C is a conference organised by industry for industry and, as such, it will also focus on how to address the skills shortage in the industry along with training, health and safety issues,” he said.

Key senior executives within the industry have been invited to select speakers and presenters in each stream of the conference to address strategic, policy and practical implementation issues in a compelling and relevant manner.

Mr Smith said Energy 21C would feature eminent international speakers and industry leaders with the opening session dedicated to an energy delivery summit debating future networks for customers.

The conference is unique as it integrates a series of keynote and panel presentations, workshops, live practical demonstrations, site visits, and an exhibition expected to attract 100 companies.

“This will allow us to maximise concept development and the overall learning experience,” Mr Smith added.

“Energy 21C will ensure delegates are at the knowledge edge of change with powerful insights into the future of our industry.

The conference is owned by the Australian Industry Group and the Energy Networks Association.

For more information, visit [www.energy21c.com.au](http://www.energy21c.com.au) or contact the Conference Managers, Waldron Smith Management, by telephone (03) 9645 6311 or e-mail [energy21c@wsm.com.au](mailto:energy21c@wsm.com.au)

#### **INTERVIEW:**

Energy 21C Conference Chairman, Bob Smith, is available for interview on 0407 412 181

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