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The Manager
Company Announcements Platform
Australian Stock Exchange Ltd

E&A Contractors expands into wind tower manufacture and fabrication

E & A Limited (**EAL**) is pleased to announce that it has successfully diversified its operations by facilitating E&A Contractors' expansion into the fabrication and manufacture of wind towers.

E&A Contractors has procured the essential elements of the wind tower fabrication business previously operated by RPG Australia Pty Ltd who went into administration last month. Specifically, E&A Contractors has engaged the services of Mike Lewis and his senior executive wind tower fabrication team. Mr Lewis has been appointed Chief Executive of E&A Contractors' newly created Renewable Energy Division. Mr Lewis has already been instrumental in assisting E&A Contractors develop a relationship with Siemens who are working with E&A Contractors to ensure that at least 20 wind towers for the forthcoming Snowtown II Project are fabricated in Whyalla at E&A Contractors' soon to be expanded facilities.

Yesterday, E&A Contractors were successful in acquiring the plant and equipment necessary to manufacture and fabricate the Snowtown towers.

E&A Contractors has been assisted in developing its relationship with Siemens by both the Federal and State Governments.

E&A Contractors has submitted an application for funding support from the Upper Spencer Gulf Enterprise Zone Development Fund for financial support in respect of this expansion initiative. E&A Contractors expects to know the outcome of the application within 8 weeks.

The future demand for wind towers in Australia is strong as a consequence of the Federal Government's Mandated Renewable Energy Target of 20% of all energy generated in Australia by 2020.

Historically wind tower fabrication has accounted for a significant portion of RPG's turnover and in a recent year the wind tower fabrication division accounted for approximately \$50 million in turnover.

Attached to this ASX Release is a copy of the Press Release jointly issued by Siemens and E&A Limited.

For further information:

Stephen Young

Executive Chairman

Ph: +61 8 8212 2939

Snowtown II wind farm:

Siemens seeks to support Australian supplier for wind towers

Siemens Ltd, the turn-key supplier of TrustPower's Snowtown II wind project, is working with newly established Australian wind tower supplier E & A Contractors a wholly owned subsidiary of E & A Limited to procure a portion of the 90 wind towers for the newly commenced wind farm development.

During the procurement phase, Siemens set a target of sourcing 50 percent of the wind towers from local Australian supplier RPG. RPG, a well-known Australian wind tower supplier has recently been placed into Voluntary Administration. E&A Contractors has secured the key personnel and assets used by RPG in the manufacture of wind towers and will incorporate both the personnel and assets into its existing fabrication and manufacturing business at Whyalla. During this transitional phase, Siemens and E&A are working collaboratively to meet the high international standards of the project in order to ensure 20 of the towers are supplied locally within the manufacturing timeframe of mid next year.

E&A Limited, Executive Chairman Stephen Young said:

"We are pleased to be developing the capacity to manufacture and fabricate wind towers locally. Our dialogue with Siemens is progressing positively, and we are looking forward to expanding our business in Whyalla with the aim to supplying towers to the Snowtown II wind farm and to retain a strong wind tower business in South Australia"

This initiative has been supported by both the State and Federal Government and E&A Limited acknowledges their assistance in facilitating the working relationship with Siemens and the re-establishment of the RPG fabrication capacity in Whyalla.

South Australian Minister for Manufacturing, Innovation and Trade Minister Tom Koutsantonis said:

"I commend E&A's efforts to enter the market to supply wind towers as an example of the type of industrial diversification activity the State is attempting to promote in *Manufacturing Works: a strategy for driving high value manufacturing in South*

Australia. It is good to see an enterprising South Australian company working in partnership with a global leader like Siemens”.

Siemens Ltd Vice President David Pryke says:

“As part of this great project we have actively collaborated with Australian suppliers to supply the towers locally. E&A have demonstrated strong business acumen and a commitment to re-establishing wind towers for South Australia by acquiring the key assets and people of RPG. Snowtown II is a significant project for South Australia and will supply 180,000 homes with renewable energy – this will be South Australia’s largest wind farm and is an important step in building a sustainable future for Australia.”

Siemens is discussing the supply timeframe with E&A and will endeavour to work closely with the company to provide them an opportunity to establish their business in a mutually agreed timeframe to support the build of the Snowtown II wind farm.

- ENDS -

Contact
David Pryke
M 0418 397 974

Contact
Stephen Young
M 0418 821 098