



Specialist Consultants  
to the Electricity Industry

# PSC NEWS

News and Views from the team at PSC

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## ElectraNet renews SCADA Support Services Contract with PSC

PSC Australia has a very successful history of providing SCADA/EMS (Energy Management System) services to clients in Australia and has been providing SCADA support services to ElectraNet since 2007. ElectraNet is the Transmission Network Service Provider (TNSP) in South Australia.

ElectraNet operates an EMS/SCADA platform for system control and PSC's contract to provide support services for this system has been renewed for an additional five (3+1+1) years. The services that PSC provides under this contract include SCADA commissioning, database and display maintenance, systems administration, 24x7 on-call support and OSIsoft PI systems administration.

PSC has a team of four SCADA engineers based in Adelaide working on this contract. The renewal of this contract is a major achievement for this team and underpins the strong partnership PSC has with ElectraNet. In addition to SCADA support, PSC also provides transmission line engineering, telecommunications/networking design/build services and power systems studies to ElectraNet.



*ElectraNet Senior Manager ICT Graham Smith and PSC Group CEO Warwick Glendenning*

## PSC benefits from SCADA Technology Training Courses

Since 2007, PSC has arranged SCADA technology training courses in Australia for our SCADA support and project engineers. These highly regarded courses focus on developing skills in the various aspects of this technology and staff have benefited from the instruction of Ken Sommers who has many years of SCADA development and support experience.

Three separate courses (Display Building, System Administration and Habitat Software Programming) were held during March and April 2011 with the PSC

Melbourne office once again transformed into a well equipped training centre. A total of 8 PSC team members from Australia and New Zealand attended these courses along with 18 students from 3 Australian based clients.

The continuing interest from the Australian and New Zealand clients to attend these courses, whenever they are arranged, clearly validates the value PSC places on Ken Sommers SCADA technology training courses.

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# AltaLink EMS Upgrade

PSC USA is pleased to announce that we are working with AltaLink in Calgary, Alberta, assisting them with the upgrade of their Alstom Energy Management System (EMS).

Last year PSC worked with AltaLink to develop a multi-year Systems Operation Technical Roadmap encompassing a wide range of topics including requirements, software/hardware/network implementation, process documentation, organizational change management, virtualization, and NERC CIP. This year PSC has been brought in to work with the AltaLink team to provide project management and project engineering resources for the EMS upgrade.

AltaLink is upgrading Alstom Grid's **e-terraplatform** software suite from version 2.3 to version 2.6 along with compatible versions of associated Alstom products. AltaLink's approach to the **e-terraplatform** upgrade is to take on most of the work internally and augment their team with consultants from PSC.



*The AltaLink upgrade team (Left to right: Randy Nicolai, Cindy Kube, Ken Pratt (PSC), Jane Roberts, Patrick Carroll (PSC). Absent: Brent Smith, Coral Wright, Glen Faas)*

The PSC team reports to the AltaLink project manager, who is responsible for managing the upgrade project. The EMS vendor is also involved for highly complex programming tasks as well as expert training.

PSC brings both global experience and local resources to the project. According to Ken Pratt, Engineering Services Manager at PSC, "working closely with AltaLink allows PSC to leverage our engineers who have specific expertise in EMS upgrades working side-by-side with our resources in Calgary and AltaLink's Systems Operation Support

team." AltaLink has a highly skilled team of engineers and managers. "PSC is an excellent complement to our team" stated Rick Spyker, Director of System Operations at AltaLink. Mr. Spyker also commented: "PSC has been able to staff the project with very capable resources and is demonstrating quick response to our requests."

PSC is looking forward to a successful project with AltaLink and providing consulting services into the future. Ken Pratt is looking forward to summer – which he now calls the defrost cycle.

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## 2011 EEA Conference Update

PSC is proud to be the major sponsor of the 2011 NZ Electrical Engineers Association conference to be held in Auckland on 23/24 June 2011. This sponsorship is a reflection of the passion and commitment PSC has for the electricity industry in New Zealand.

A team of PSC delegates will be in attendance and two of our senior staff members will be presenting papers.

Victor Tan is a Senior Network & Security Consultant for PSC Australia and is an expert in substation data architecture. His conference paper will present a substation data network architecture that achieves the requirements in performance, resilience and security. This will appeal to all levels of understanding and will provide some very useful information for decision makers and architects of current and future substations.

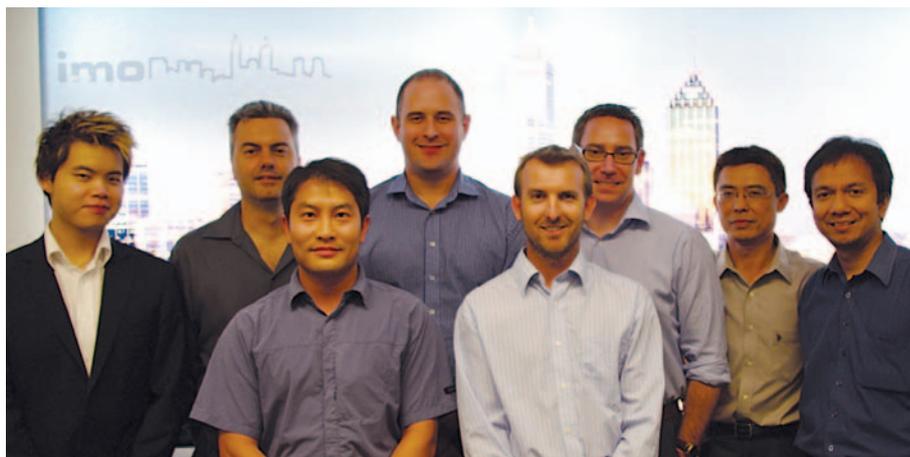
Johan Hendriks is a Senior Electrical Engineer for PSC New Zealand and our resident expert on transformers. Johan has completed some research into the effects that solar storms can have on transformers. There are some very interesting observations to be made and, while there is a lot of knowledge and information to present here, Johan will guide us through some salient points to consider in the light of scientific predictions for the coming years.

We encourage conference delegates to attend these sessions. We are sure you will find the presentations stimulating and valuable.

For further conference information or for background on PSC's electrical engineering capability, please contact Barry Ireland our NZ Electrical Engineering Manager – [barry.ireland@pscconsulting.com](mailto:barry.ireland@pscconsulting.com)

# Independent Market Operator Market Evolution Program

The Independent Market Operator (IMO) is responsible for the operation and development of the Western Australian Wholesale Electricity Market (WEM). PSC Australia has been assisting the IMO with their "Market Evolution Program" since late 2010. This is major program of work that includes development of new 24x7 competitive markets for "Balancing" and "Load Following Ancillary Services" (LFAS). This will result in a more efficient and competitive WEM.



*Members of the PSC team in Perth, Western Australia*

The PSC team led by Steve Black (WA Regional Manager) is working on-site with the IMO and have been assisting the IMO with the following aspects of the project:

- replacing the de-supported business rules engine with a custom validation engine;
- redevelopment of the Market Participant Registration user interfaces and
- enhancements to the Market Participant Interface user interfaces.
- implementation of new competitive markets for Balancing and LFAS;
- re-writing all the market calculations written in FORTRAN with JAVA;

The complete program of work is scheduled for completion in early 2012. In addition to the successful Market Support contract that PSC has with the IMO, the Market Evolution Program continues to build PSC's reputation as a leading market systems provider in the Asia Pacific region.

## New Zealand PM Visit

The PSC board of directors recently met with the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Mr John Key where they provided information on PSC and the operation of an engineering consultancy business in the New Zealand electricity industry. The meeting was an excellent opportunity to

provide Mr Key with an overview of a successful New Zealand company and concluded with an afternoon tea.

*PSC Director & Chairman  
Tony Armstrong and the  
Prime Minister of New Zealand  
John Key*



## 2011 Absa Cape Epic Mountainbike Race

The Absa Cape Epic, also known as the "Tour de France of Mountainbiking" is an 8 day stage race which is done in pairs. It covers over 700 km with over 14,500 vertical metres of climbing through the Western Cape of South Africa.

Stephen Butler from PSC and Willie de Beer from ABB South Africa decided to enter the race while working together on the Caprivi Link Interconnector HVDC project in Namibia. They were lucky enough to score an entry in the earlybird sales, which go on sale the day after the previous year's

event ends, and sell out in minutes. The event started with a short 27km prologue in Tokai forest near Cape Town. After the prologue, riders travelled out to the Tulbagh Valley which was the location for the first two stages. Most of the riders stayed in one man tents, and dinner and breakfast was served in a large marquee.

Out of 600 entries, Team PSC – Buycycle finished in a credible 182nd place with a total time of 42 hours 13 minutes. 496 teams finished, the winning time was 28:44 and the last finishers rode the race



*Team PSC - Buycycle (Willie & Stephen)*

in 59:38. The support from PSC is greatly appreciated, it was an amazing experience.

# PSC Welcomes New Staff

PSC welcomes new staff, and is continuing its recruitment of industry leading people to meet the growing demand for services in the specialist areas that we support.

## Mark Klause

Mark Klause has joined PSC USA in Birmingham, Alabama as a Control Systems Engineer. He comes to us from Xcel Energy where he provided operational support for Network Applications, AGC, Energy Accounting, Interchange Transmission Scheduler, Operator Training Simulator, and the Data Warehouse using Siemens EMS technology. He has a Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering from Texas Tech University. His interests include fishing, traveling, and spending time with his family.



## Joan Ritter

Joan Ritter has joined PSC USA in Seattle as our Accounting Analyst. She brings 30 years of experience as a financial controller and in various accounting roles to PSC. Joan has been providing book keeping and administrative services to PSC USA for over a year but as the North American business has grown and with it the accounting requirements she has joined the team in a more permanent capacity.



## Mike Barnes

Mike Barnes has joined PSC New Zealand as a Telecommunications Consultant and has worked in the electricity supply and telecommunication industries as both a Technician and as an Engineer. This includes technical expertise in IP network and digital microwave radio system design, installation and commissioning. Mike will be based in our IT & Telecommunications group in Wellington.



## Joe Marcotte

Joe Marcotte has joined PSC USA in Seattle, WA as a SCADA/EMS Consultant. He came to us from Seattle City Light where he was an Electrical Engineering Specialist. Prior to that he was an Electrical Engineer and Systems Manager at Ketchikan Public utilities in Alaska. He also spent five years with Alstom's EMS product group in Bellevue, Washington. Joe holds a Bachelor of Science, Electrical Engineering from the University of Washington. His first assignment with PSC is at Puget Sound Energy assisting them with the day to day operations of their EMS.



## Don Bree

Don Bree has joined PSC USA as a Senior Control Systems Engineer. Don brings many years of industry experience including over 30 years on Alstom technology. Don is starting his tenure with PSC by providing EMS support in areas including Network applications and DTS to the Alberta Electric System Operator located in Calgary, Canada. Before joining PSC Don was providing consulting support to the Midwest ISO in Carmel, Indiana. Don has extensive knowledge of the Alstom systems, in particular the advanced applications.



## Jim Randolph

Jim Randolph has joined PSC USA as a Senior Control Systems Engineer. Jim has an extensive background in the EMS industry including almost 20 years on Alstom EMS technology with 14 years at Alstom Grid where he provided onsite services to utilities throughout the United States and delivered training courses on a broad range of EMS technologies. Prior to Alstom, Jim worked for Public Service of Colorado supporting their Alstom EMS.



## David Schwartzfeger celebrates 10 years of Excellent Service

David Schwartzfeger has recently celebrated 10 years of excellent service with PSC. Over the past 10 years, David has specialised in custom software design for electricity market systems, SCADA and control systems. He has been a key member of several recent successful projects including the development of special applications associated with Transpower's replacement electricity market system, including Stand-Alone Dispatch and Electronic Dispatch Facility. He is also providing critical support services for those applications plus Transpower's Market Operator Interface. The management team would like to thank David for his commitment and outstanding quality of work over the past 10 years with PSC.

PSC also congratulates John McLean, Arthur Panggabean, Rick Wellington and Gary Jennings who have all recently completed 5 years of excellent service with the company.



David Schwartzfeger and PSC's Control & Market Systems Manager Graham Long