

Cunningham brings scaffolding expertise to Australia

A LEADING New Zealand scaffolding and rigging specialist, which has been involved in all major construction projects in New Zealand since the mid-1970s, has now launched an assault on the Australian market.

Cunningham Construction Ltd (CCL), whose major clients include Foster Wheeler and Shell, recently established Cunningham Construction Australia Pty Ltd (CCA) after identifying that it could offer its expertise and quality to the Australian industry.

CCA's business development director, Sean Cunningham, said the close association between the two companies gives them the ability to offer professional resources to Australian industry.

"This includes management, supervision, qualified personnel, and quality equipment to carry out projects," Mr Cunningham said.

"The company has a proven track record in the management of industrial relations, project performance, and health, safety and environmental controls."

Mr Cunningham said CCL has been the benchmark of the New Zealand scaffolding and rigging industry.

"This has been highlighted by its safe and successful involvement with numerous petrochemical-related projects, as well as numerous projects including power stations, steel mills, fertiliser plants, pulp and paper mills," Mr Cunningham said.

"These projects have been carried out for major clients such as Foster Wheeler, Bechtel Pacific, Chicago Bridge and Iron, Shell, BP, Methanex, NZ Refining Company and Downer Construction."



CCA's business development director, Sean Cunningham.

While CCA appears to be on course to provide the same quality of service as its associate partner CCL, the Group's expertise in the offshore petrochemical industry is considered to be a major plus for the Australian market.

The company's emphasis on safety and industry expertise has also helped contribute to the success of offshore projects. It attained ISO 9002:1994 accreditation and then upgraded to ISO 9001:2000.

The company is a founding member of Scaffolding and Rigging New Zealand and represented the New Zealand Contractors Federation, which in cooperation with the Occupational Safety and Health Department of New Zealand, was part of the committee BD36 that wrote and formulated AS/NZS 4576:1995 Guidelines for Scaffolding for the two countries.

CCA's directors, Sean Cunningham, Paul Cunningham and Anton Capper, registered CCA in Western Australia in July 2005 and began trading in Perth in September 2005.

"We chose Perth because of its resource boom and its high concentration of petrochemical projects," Mr Cunningham said.

"Our offshore oil and gas experience is through our associate company CCL and its successful contracts with various oil and gas projects in NZ.

"We can provide qualified and experienced labour, equipment and proven management systems to all projects both onshore and offshore."

Mr Cunningham was practically born into the scaffolding industry, with his father Paul Cunningham setting up Cunningham Construction (NZ) Ltd in the mid-1970s.

"I have seen CCL grow from humble beginnings into a powerhouse of NZ scaffolding. Our on site philosophy is to ensure we manage all our projects with an energetic focus on all our personnel at all levels to partake through a thoroughly educational and consultative process on all issues - from safety to operational efficiencies - gained via innovation without compromising industry best practice and standards."

Mr Cunningham emphasised the importance of the company's ethos - no matter what type of industry it services or how it goes about its business, it acknowledges that people are the key to success and success is achieved by key people. ■

More sales for Champion

AUSTRALIAN compressed air specialist Champion Compressors, has consolidated its five-year relationship with Tanabe Compressors Singapore, with a recently-secured export order for 76 marine-customised rotary screw compressors. The order is the second such major consignment to be filled by Champion and emanates from the increased global demand for larger anchor handling tug supply (AHTS) vessels which Tanabe furnishes.

Tanabe Compressors Singapore is one of the largest marine compressor suppliers in the world and specialises in the provision of high-pressure oil-free reciprocating air compressors to large container and AHTS vessels. Recent increases world-wide in oil exploration, and a need to replace legacy vessels, have led to heightened demand on Tanabe production. Champion Compressors has been supplying specially-designed compressors to Tanabe since 2001, delivering some 70 units to date.

As the larger vessels require more powerful compressors yet still have limited space, the new tailor-made Champion compressors feature a gutsy 35 per cent increased output capacity, within a footprint just 15 per cent larger than Champion's original specification.

Designed for 6.0-bar applications, the specialised 75-kW and 110-kW compressors are based on Champion's popular Marathon range of rotary screw compressors. ■

Sullair acquires PremiAir

LEADING Australian compressor sales, service and hire company, PremiAir, has joined forces with international compressor technology group, Sullair Australia. Based in Blacktown, NSW, PremiAir has been appointed "master distributor" for Sullair Australia, strengthening Sullair's national network of distribution centres.

According to Sullair Australia design engineer, Simon Mullins, the appointment of PremiAir as a sales and distribution channel was a natural fit.

"PremiAir's focus - like our own - is on providing customised compressed air solutions by matching the right equipment to specific process needs," he said.

"Sullair's global experience, coupled with PremiAir's extensive local knowledge, enables us to deliver world-class air compressors, tailored to the application and environment." ■