

Platinum award for Hertel Modern

Industrial services company joins elite group safety program

Exemplary HSEC performance by Hertel Modern over five years has seen the company join a select group of WA businesses that have won an IFAP/CGU Platinum Safe Way Achiever Award.

It was the first time Hertel Modern has collected a platinum award, which are presented to companies that have won gold awards five years in a row.

Corporate manager HSEC Peter Capone sees it as fitting recognition for the company's HSEC management standards, which include specific performance requirements and auditable criteria across all of Hertel Modern's many sites and operations.

Founded as Matthews Metals more than 30 years ago, the company was initially a leader in the WA insulation industry and is proud that it has been involved in nearly all of the major high rise and building developments in the Perth CBD.

Gorgon contract

It has since diversified and provides specialist cryogenic insulation services to liquefied natural gas operators on the northwest shelf of WA and has been awarded a painting and insulation contract for Chevron's \$43 billion Gorgon LNG project.

Peter Capone says Chevron has stipulated intensive safety requirements and prominent auditing firm SIA Global has found that Hertel Modern's risk management and compliance procedures exceed those demanded by Chevron.

He explains that the offshore modules for Gorgon are being constructed in China and shipped to the company's Henderson facility in sections for insulation and painting work before being transported to Gorgon where they are put together and final tests are carried out.

Hertel Modern conducts thorough safety risk assessments on all aspects of its projects and plans, establishes and manages its workplaces to minimise risk while at the same time developing work practices to reduce risk to the lowest practicable levels.

Continuous improvement

As well, Peter Capone says the company pursues continuous improvement through open reporting, measurement of key indicators against targets, continuing analysis of its safety performance which sometimes leads to modification of practices and systems.

Three years ago when he joined Hertel Modern, Peter Capone set up the company's health, safety, environment and community (HSEC) and business systems, which



Peter Capone, Hertel Modern Corporate Manager HSEC

include all the documentation procedures, so he was understandably chuffed when presented with an IFAP/CGU Platinum Safe Way Achiever Award.

The HSEC manager for Hertel Modern believes that much of his personal success can be attributed to the fact that he's had considerable hands-on experience.

In the field

He says that he started off on the shop floor and was a boiler maker for 20 years while studying civil engineering at night school. He spent time as a union safety representative and a shop steward and is convinced that the best safety people are those who have spent a lot of time in the field.

Peter Capone is concerned that in too many organisations, safety managers don't have direct access to top management. Instead they report to general managers which makes it difficult to get things done.

"The managing director is the sole responsible person of a company and you need to have his or her ear," he says.

And he believes that a lot of small companies still don't adhere to legislated safety requirements and often have little understanding of job safety analysis requirements. "It is pointless to have a JSA out in the field if they don't understand the process. Too often they are done just to get certification from an Australian or international safety standard."

Peter Capone also highlights open communication across the board as being essential so that employees, subcontractors, suppliers and clients are all involved in the safety process.

Hertel Modern, which gained its present name when Modern Industries was taken over by giant Dutch conglomerate Hertel took it over last year, complies with AS/NZS 4801 OHS management systems, OHSAS 18001 OHS and ISO 9001 quality management systems.