

> Siemens' vote of support for WA economy

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Federal MP Steve Irons officially opens Siemens' new WA headquarters in Belmont on behalf of Senator Johnston

Announcement: further expansion with new Service Centre at Perth Airport

Factory-trained, original equipment manufacturer (OEM) technicians and industrial service specialists.

Critical crossroads for WA industry – perfect time to invest in WA

Technology giant Siemens – which today officially opened its new multi-million-dollar Perth offices – has extended its long-term commitment to the West by also announcing the development of a new Service Centre at Perth International Airport.

The state-of-the-art 3,500 square metre facility, to be completed in 2015, will provide critical service and repair for customers in the water, mining, oil and gas and associated industries.

At the official opening of their new offices, Siemens CEO Jeff Connolly was upbeat about the long-term prospects for the WA economy.

“Our new offices and the announcement of our Service Centre comes during a period of transition for WA, which is the perfect time for Siemens to play a greater role,” said Mr Connolly.

According to Mr Connolly, companies are looking to ‘sweat their assets’, maximize their investments, reduce waste and downtime and become more competitive.

“Put simply, it is about increasing our presence where and when customers need us most.

“It will be especially salient as the WA resources sector continues to move from its construction phase to an operational stage,” said Mr Connolly.

In addition to providing much needed local expertise from an OEM for refurbishing, repairing and testing electric motors and drives, the Service Centre will provide essential training and knowledge transfer to key industries.

“Western Australia is at a critical crossroads as we head towards the fourth industrial revolution (Industry 4.0). These global changes will affect every industry and we can help companies remain competitive and prepare for this change. Expert training and knowledge transfer on latest technologies will be part of this transition,” said Mr Connolly.

“It’s difficult for university curriculums to keep up with the rate of development when we invest about AUD\$6.5B in R&D each year.”

Minister for Defence and Senator for Western Australia David Johnston said the role of technology and advanced service was vital to ongoing competitiveness for Western Australian industries.

“I’ve known Siemens for some time and it’s great to see them move in and expand just down the road from my own electorate office,” Senator Johnston said.

“You don’t need to look too far and you’ll find Siemens technology behind the scenes in some of our biggest projects and most important industries – from our mines to our hospitals and from our buildings to our drinking water.”

Senator Johnston further highlighted the role Siemens’ technology plays in advancing Australia’s defence capability.

“Down at Garden Island you can see Siemens technology in operation as they provided all electrical and control systems for the original ANZAC build program,” Senator Johnston said.

“It’s also Siemens’ propulsion and high voltage systems on Australia’s new Canberra-class landing helicopter docks (LHDs).”

Located in Belmont, the new WA headquarters takes Siemens back to where it opened an office in the Belmont picture theatre 40 years ago. But its start in Australia dates back more than 140 years and in WA more than a century.

Having grown extensively since, today Siemens boasts nearly 200 people in WA.

“We like to think we’re part of the fabric of WA - that we have the red dust flowing through our veins and this investment is a natural progression,” Mr Connolly said.

Media Contacts

Communications Manager

Keith Ritchie

p: +61 3 9721 7230

m: +61 457 841 189

keith.ritchie@siemens.com

Media Relations

Ms. Krupa Uthappa

p: +61 3 9721 7681

m: +61 427 601 578

krupa.uthappa@siemens.com

All other inquiries

p: 137 222

customercare.au@siemens.com

