

> 'Nothing' worth celebrating

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Caption: Siemens Power Generation Lonsdale Workshop Manager David Jose (left) is congratulated by Siemens Power Generations Services head Michael Bielinski for reaching six consecutive years with no serious accidents.

The last time the Siemens Power Generation Service team at Lonsdale in South Australia had a Lost Time Injury, Kevin Rudd was prime minister (for the first time) and Apple had just released the iPhone in Australia. That's why the 24-man team is being recognised for its amazing record of six consecutive years - almost 2,200 days in a row - with no serious accidents.

As Leon Wheatley, Siemens EHS Professional explains, the workshop is typical of many heavy industries - equipped with lathes, drills, overhead cranes and large pieces of equipment that can be dangerous if not given due caution. Working on Siemens' wind and gas turbines, large drives and associated components means there are always hazards in the workplace if workers don't take care.

"On-site, our people have to 'own' their own safety," Leon says. "It's a culture we've developed within a framework of Continuous Improvement, where we have simplified the workshop safety systems and processes to make servicing operations easier to avoid the risks associated with using certain equipment (aligned to the AS/NZS4801 Standard). We even made a video in which we ask employees why is safety important to them." "The overwhelming response from our people was not really work-related, but more about family and how important it was for them return home safely each day. It really got them thinking. Our investment in safety certainly has achieved the results we were after," Leon says.

At an on-site presentation, Siemens Power Generations Services head Michael Bielinski, said: "On behalf of the organisation we want to recognise this significant event - six years without an LTI at an industrial workshop is a credit to all involved. This presentation is the company's way of applauding the way the team has managed safety within the workshop environment."

Next week the team moves into the new state-of-the-art workshop site at South Australia's technology hub at Tonsley. There the team is determined to carry on its unblemished record in the facility as it continues to service equipment for the mining and energy sectors.



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