



MEDIA RELEASE

21 October 2008

Mighty River Power apprentice reigns supreme at training awards

Mighty River Power apprentice Bjorn Van Dam was recently named Overall Trainee of the Year at the 2008 Electricity Supply Industry Training Organisation (ESITO) Excellence Awards.

The 22-year-old electrical apprentice was also named Generation Trainee of the Year.

The ESITO Excellence Awards celebrate the electricity supply industry's most outstanding trainees and the people who encourage and support them.

Mr Van Dam was selected as the Overall Trainee of the Year after the judging panel carefully assessed and deliberated over the winners of five award categories – Business Support Trainee of the Year, Generation Trainee of the Year, Networks Trainee of the Year, Telecommunications Trainee of the Year and Advanced Trainee of the Year.

John McWilliam, ESITO Acting CEO and convenor of the judging panel, said Mr Van Dam stood out as an all-round achiever.

“Although Bjorn is an incredibly focused self-starter, it's evident that he's also a born leader. The number of testimonials provided by his workmates is testament to this, and a real credit to him.

“Bjorn's achievements to date demonstrate that he has much to offer, not only Mighty River Power, but also the electricity supply industry.”

Now Auckland-based, Mr Van Dam grew up in the Waikato and attended St Johns College in Hamilton. He hopes to complete his apprenticeship in January next year and, in future years, plans to study toward a Bachelor of Engineering degree.

Mr Van Dam received his awards at a gala dinner held at Mystery Creek Events Centre in Hamilton last Thursday.

“It was a fantastic honour,” said Mr Van Dam. “I couldn't believe it when they called my name.”

Other award winners were:

Business Support Trainee of the Year

Liz Thomas, Electrix Limited

Networks Trainee of the Year

Jennifer Seaward, ABB Limited

Telecommunications Trainee of the Year

Jeremy Young, Transfield Services (New Zealand) Limited

Advanced Trainee of the Year

Michael Buchanan, Tenix Alliance New Zealand Limited

Contribution to Industry Training

Ashley Weir, Tyco Electronics NZ Limited

The ESITO Excellence Awards are organised by ESITO with support from premier sponsor Northpower. Other sponsors include Electrix, Precision Training, Mighty River Power, United Group, DJC, Transfield Services and Connetics.

For more information, please contact:

John McWilliam
CEO (Acting)
ESITO
Phone: 0275 632 231

About ESITO

The Electricity Supply Industry Training Organisation (ESITO) sets national standards and qualifications, and develops learning resources for all sectors of the industry – generation, transmission, distribution and utilisation.