



MEDIA RELEASE

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Northpower line mechanics runners-up at industry competition

Four linemen from Northpower Whangarei were formidable contenders at the recently contested ESITO Line Mechanic Competition, winning the teamwork and mystery challenges and finishing in second place overall.

Held at Mystery Creek Events Centre, the three-day competition challenged teams of four line mechanics to demonstrate the very best practices for completing jobs safely and efficiently while under the watchful eye of experienced judges and the time clock. It was also a great showcase of the unique skills linemen rely on everyday to keep the power flowing to millions of homes and businesses around New Zealand.

Each team of four included three registered line mechanics and a trainee. Richard Ashby, Kane Chamberlain, Paul Brown and trainee line mechanic Simon Jones made up the Northpower Whangarei team. They were managed by John Dixon.

“The standard of the competing teams has been getting higher and higher every year, making it a tough competition,” said team leader Richard Ashby. “But we had great teamwork and I believe that’s what got us through to the final.”

As runners-up, each team member won a Canon digital camera, electronic photo frame and digital photo printer from TEX Onsite. Ross Gamble, TEX Onsite’s general manager, will present the team with their prizes at Northpower’s Whangarei office on October 31.

“It’s been three or four years since a Northpower team made the final so that was what we set out to achieve, said Mr Ashby. Being the runners-up was icing on the cake and we’re proud of our achievement.”

The winning team was Albany based Siemens (N.Z.) Limited (Northern). Third place went to Tenix Alliance from Wanganui.

The ESITO Line Mechanic Competition is organised by ESITO with support from premier sponsor Electropar.

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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.