



MEDIA RELEASE

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Siemens retain top honours at national line mechanic comp

Forty linemen from ten crews throughout the North Island endured unseasonably hot weather and intermittent downpours in their quest for bragging rights to the coveted National Cup at the recently contested ESITO Line Mechanic Competition.

When the dust settled it was the team from Siemens (N.Z.) Limited – Northern (based in Albany) who took top honours – for the second year in a row. In addition to keeping the National Cup, each team member won a Panasonic 42-inch plasma television provided by TransNet.

Held at Mystery Creek Events Centre, the three-day ESITO Line Mechanic 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. Warren Hedley, Bevan Cato, Mason Dray-Hogg and trainee line mechanic Fred Prescott made up the winning Siemens (N.Z.) Limited – Northern team. They were managed by Dion Connelly.

Warren Hedley said this year's competition was "definitely a challenge with all teams competing to a high standard."

"The heat also added to the challenge but we had a good team and we went to Hamilton with a positive attitude and the determination to grab whatever came our way.

"All the boys, except Fred, have participated in the competition before but being announced as the winner was still an amazing buzz."

Although their performance was strong, Siemens (N.Z.) Limited – Northern didn't get it all their own way. Northpower – Whangarei were formidable contenders winning the Teamwork and Mystery challenges and finishing in second place overall.

Paul Tasker, the trainee line mechanic from third-placed Tenix Alliance (based in Wanganui), was awarded the Ross Archer Memorial Line Mechanic Safety Award for being the trainee with the best individual marks during the competition.

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.