

Innovative safety solutions recognised

The CME's Safety and Health Innovation Awards for 2013 have recognised Rio Tinto Iron Ore, CITIC Pacific Mining and Tuff Industries for their outstanding performance and innovation in the area of safety for this year.

Programs targeting the health of workers and the safety performance of contractors were among the winners at the Chamber of Minerals and Energy's (CME) Safety and Health Innovation Awards for 2013, held in Perth in April.

CME chief executive Reg Howard-Smith said the awards celebrated innovative programs being developed by individual companies, which highlighted the entire industry's commitment to continue to improve safety performance.

"Whether it's by engineering new solutions to minimise risk or promoting a site culture of safety-first, the health and wellbeing of workers continues to be the No.1 priority of the sector," Howard-Smith said.

Rio Tinto Iron Ore was recognised for its mobile camp, CITIC Pacific Mining for its efforts in developing a new filtration system and Tuff Industries for its lock ring catcher.

Additionally, Quiet Acoustics Pty Ltd was voted the people's choice for its industrial noise control panel.

"These companies are at the forefront of finding innovative solutions to improve workplace safety," said Howard-Smith.

"It was pleasing to see that the WA resource sector was fatality-free in 2012. Despite this great outcome, everyone acknowledges there is no room for complacency.

"The resource sector will remain vigilant and work hard to ensure everyone gets home safe and well after finishing work."

In the people category, Rio won for its resource explorer mobile camp. This is a 40-person mobile camp consisting of air conditioned rooms with en suites, a fully equipped kitchen and laundry. The facility supplies its own power and portable water and also provides first aid and project office facilities. This extremely robust facility can be transported by prime mover.

In the systems category, CITIC Pacific won for its HEPA filtration system with maintenance and testing program. In a joint venture with Work Air Technologies, it developed a robust filtration system, maintenance and testing program to address the issue of mineral fibres, such as asbestos, entering vehicle cabins at their Sino Iron Cape Preston minesite. The system has successfully undergone extensive field testing and is being applied to the entire mining fleet. CITIC Pacific has developed a comprehensive testing regime that compliments this system and allows the filter unit and cab to maintain its integrity during the life of the vehicle and allows for a formalised audit process.

In the engineering category, Tuff Industries won for its lock ring catcher. The catcher is designed to help overcome safety issues surrounding the removal and fitting of wheel lock rings on minesite haul trucks.

The usual procedure when changing a vehicle tyre has been to allow the lock ring, after release, to eject from the wheel and fall to the floor. As lock rings can weigh as much as 60kg, there existed the potential for injury should contact be made with the ring lock when it released, but using the Tuff lock ring catcher effectively reduces the risk of injury with this procedure.

The people's choice award went to Quiet Acoustics for its industrial

noise control panel. The panel is locally manufactured and uses the principles of resonance to cancel and control low-frequency noise. It is the first of its kind globally, being adopted across mining and resources, oil and gas and marine sectors, including for use in equipment enclosures, wall construction on mine camp accommodation, oil and gas rigs, marine vessel interiors and outdoor noise barrier fences.

The panel is made from 100% aluminium honeycomb sandwich panels to produce one of the lightest, most rigid and strongest fibre-free building materials available today, which additionally can cancel noise.



CME Chief Executive
Reg Howard-Smith.



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