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ETSA Utilities awards apprentices of the year

Four ETSA Utilities apprentices have received 2009 ETSA Utilities Apprentice of the Year awards at a ceremony held recently at The Shores Function Complex.

The apprentice of the year award winners were:

- 1st year – Daniel Martin – Electrical Apprentice – Elizabeth depot
- 2nd year – William Burnell – Powerline Apprentice – Holden Hill depot
- 3rd year – Daniel Thiele – Powerline Apprentice – Murray Bridge depot
- 4th year (Playford Medallist) – Sam Fauser – Trade Skilled Worker Electrical – Marleston depot

ETSA Utilities CEO Rob Stobbe said the winners were chosen from a strong field of nominees because of their positive attitudes and on-the-job excellence in all areas of work.

“All awardees have demonstrated strong technical aptitude and their work is of a consistently high standard,” Mr Stobbe said.

“Not only are they great team players, all men have committed themselves to the practical and theory components of the ETSA Utilities apprenticeships program. What also impressed the award panel was their willingness to go that extra mile to make a difference in their workplaces.

“We congratulate the awardees on this excellent achievement.”

ETSA Utilities offers two main apprenticeships – Electrical Distribution Powerline and Systems Electrician – in addition to apprenticeships in Electronics, Diesel Mechanics and Boilermaking. All apprenticeships are structured as four-year programs that provide on-the-job experience and certified training at Tafe SA and ETSA Utilities Training Services.

Mr Stobbe said ETSA Utilities continued to be a leader in training in South Australia.

“In recent years we have recruited more than 260 apprentices, with 110 graduates already in our workforce and another 158 currently undergoing training. The fact we have a retention rate of just under 100 percent shows ETSA Utilities is a great place to train and build a career,” Mr Stobbe said.

“We are now in a new regulatory period and are about to embark on a significant network improvement and investment program – it’s safe to say our commitment to training is only going to increase.

“In 2011 we will be recruiting another intake of apprentices and we hope more people like our awardees will take up the opportunity to work for ETSA Utilities.

“With growing investment in the network and emerging ‘smart grid’ technology, the electricity distribution industry is an exciting place to be in the next 10 years.”

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About ETSA Utilities

ETSA Utilities is South Australia’s electricity distributor, delivering electricity to more than 800,000 customers. We are one of South Australia’s largest organisations, employing about 1800 people throughout metropolitan and regional SA. ETSA Utilities is 51 percent owned by Cheung Kong Infrastructure Holdings Limited and Hongkong Electric Holdings, which form part of the Cheung Kong Group of companies. The remaining 49 percent is owned by ASX listed Spark Infrastructure.