

Media release

2 July 2009
BRISBANE



Leighton Contractors & e3k develop energy efficiency benchmark for reducing carbon emissions

Leighton Contractors and e3k have teamed up to create the Leighton Energy Efficiency Equations, or Le3 method for short, for benchmarking the energy efficiency of material transportation.

The idea for the research and development came from Leighton Contractors, operators of one of the largest fleet of bulk materials transport vehicles (haul trucks) in Australia and New Zealand.

Mr Steve McDonald, General Manager Plant for Leighton Contractors said the company needed a reliable measurement system that could be applied equally across all operations and within the operations, where the nature of the work undertaken varied frequently.

“When we looked for such a system, it was clear that no-one had developed anything that could take into account the variation that we frequently encounter, particularly in our contract mining operations,” Mr McDonald said.

“Together with e3k we have been able to develop a system which will enable us to lower our carbon emissions and fulfil our commitment of becoming a more sustainable company.”

Dr Duncan Gilmore, Director and President of e3k, said it was important for companies that are aiming to improve the energy efficiency of their operations to have a way of knowing how well they are doing compared to what is realistically possible.

“It is of no use to aim for energy efficiencies that are just not physically possible and conversely it is not as beneficial to aim for energy efficiencies which are less than those already being achieved by best practice operations around the world,” Dr Gilmore said.

The R&D work undertaken produced several mathematical equations which took into account many inputs that were logged and available from the vehicles and the mining operations, as well as key physical parameters.

Using these equations, live data from vehicles can be readily manipulated by computer to provide a comparison with best-practice benchmark efficiency parameters for a particular fleet.

The output information is able to be easily analysed to give regular guidance on the status of ever-changing energy efficiency of fleets, vehicle types, haul routes, individual vehicles and drivers.

Dr Gilmore said the methodology focussed on the energy dissipated when relocating materials.

“This same principle can be applied to construction, tunnelling, materials handling, oil and gas pipelines, waste collection and treatment, freight, and shipping,” Dr Gilmore said.

“Before you can reduce your fuel costs and carbon emissions, you need to understand your inefficiencies.”

Dr Gilmore said one of the most valuable aspects of e3k’s work was in developing and expanding their client’s IP with innovative and creative engineering ideas.

“We do this using highly talented engineers who have a broad experience in many fields of research,” Dr Gilmore said.

Leighton Contractors Pty Limited own the Intellectual Property associated with the Le3 method, and is currently implementing an Le3 monitoring system at one of its mining sites.

T: 08 9389 4898 or 0429 613 962

Shannon Kliendienst, National Communications Manager, Leighton Contractors Resources Division
Shannon.kliendienst@leicon.com.au

T: 07 3853 5250

Dr Duncan Gilmore, Director and President of e3k
duncan@e3k.com

About Leighton Contractors

Leighton Contractors is one of Australia’s leading contracting and project development groups with over \$8.3 billion work in hand, employing more than 9,000 people across Australia and New Zealand.

The company services clients across a range of industries and sectors including resources, construction, telecommunications, energy, infrastructure and facility management.

www.leightoncontractors.com.au

About e3k

Gilmore Engineers / e3k is a leading Australian Engineering consultancy, serving industry, government and consultants in the manufacturing, energy, transportation, aerospace, mining and other high-technology fields.

www.e3k.com