

## Meat Processing Engineering Network 2016-2017

**Project Report Reference: 2017-1004**

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### **Project Description**

The Meat Industry Engineering Network consists of industry personnel, researchers, regulators and trainers and represents an efficient method of distribution of new information for processing plant engineers. This network provides extension services for AMPC research and development activities. It gives plant-based engineering personnel, researchers and regulators a very useful forum to explain, explore and discuss new issues and innovations.

The network also provides a means of showcasing initiatives being undertaken by the meat processing industry in the nominated areas of transformational and disruptive technologies, new and modified products and process developments. Specific areas of interest include robotics, processing aides, and automation as well as refrigeration.

While new technologies such as automation offer significant opportunities to solve problems such as improving productivity, increasing yield recovery, remuneration levels, Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) performance and attracting people with new skills into the industry, lack of attention to the underpinning human capital requirements has inhibited effective roll-out.

Developing and implementing appropriate technology solutions is critical to improving a processor's bottom line and ensuring the sustainability of the industry. AMPC is committed to foster creativity and support technology providers and processors to innovate and develop new safer, sustainable and cost-efficient solutions to problems affecting the industry. This project seeks to address the human factors associated with such developments.

This project seeks to:

- serve as an extension arm for AMPC's technology project outcomes
- enhance the ability of the industry to manage its engineering responsibilities
- increase the dialogue between industry engineers and the researchers
- facilitate professional development activities to enable engineers to expand their skills

and knowledge bases

- ensure the timely and structured dissemination of R&D outcomes throughout the industry.

### **Project Outcome**

Over a twelve-month period, two meetings were held in Perth and Brisbane in accordance with contractual requirements. Twenty seven participants attended the meetings. Each meeting included the following agenda items.

- updates from AMPC where applicable
- presentations from current researchers or in relation to current projects
- displays of new technologies/developments
- agenda items requested by the attendees
- MINTRAC update, including current relevant training matters
- identification of professional development requirements
- Meeting presentations included:
  - Ammonia Refrigeration Training
  - CO<sup>2</sup> Refrigeration systems
  - Certificate IV in Industrial Automation and Control
  - Maintenance manuals and technical training of tomorrow
  - A plant engineer's role in the event of an emergency animal disease outbreak.

Documentation provided to attendees included:

- AMPC SnapShots
- other written information to support presentations.

The Perth meeting included a plant tour of the Talloman rendering facility.

### **Benefit for Industry**

The network provides a means of showcasing initiatives being undertaken by meat processing plants and related industries in the nominated areas of transformational technologies, new and modified products and process developments.

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