

Formation of Post-Tensioning Institute of Australia

The *Post-Tensioning Institute of Australia* (PTIA) was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee on 14 August, 2006. The main aim of the PTIA is to ensure high standards and accreditation of members in the post-tensioning industry.

The PTIA was formed “*to represent the post-tensioning contracting industry in Australia and seek to maintain a viable and competent industry with high standards in design and construction of post-tensioning systems for the benefits of its Members, their employees, and their clients*”.

In order to achieve this mission, PTIA has set four key objectives –

- 1 to promote high standards in design, construction and materials for post-tensioning systems, consistent with world best practice, and verified by certification of its Corporate and Associate Members, and
- 2 to develop industry work standards which establish appropriate skills of employees, personal development opportunities, a safe working environment, and environmental responsibility, and
- 3 to achieve ongoing technical advances in materials and systems for post-tensioning, and
- 4 to ensure that the post-tensioning contracting industry is both viable and competitive.

Membership is available at a choice of four levels, namely

- Corporate – post-tensioning contracting organisations
- Associate – non-contracting organisations in the post-tensioning industry, including materials and equipment suppliers and consulting organisations
- Association – related industry associations, and
- Individual

The Directors of the Institute are -: David Pash - President; Ian Stuart - Vice President; Max Schweiger - Treasurer; Ed Cross, Mike O'Neill and Steve Grogan.

Setting of quality standards for the industry

It is the ambition of the Institute to establish significantly improved standards of design, construction and work skills for post-tensioning in the Australian construction industry. Until now, the post-tensioning industry in Australia has been largely unregulated and has relied on the strength of large international groups to underwrite its performance. Serious quality problems encountered recently in the Middle East and previous problems in the United Kingdom where post-tensioning was banned for 10 years due to poor quality control and workmanship highlight the urgent need to accredit companies involved in the business and to set minimum standards of competence and work skills.

Over half of the post-tensioning companies operating in Australia do so without the correct licenses and with untested anchorage systems. With safety and staff welfare being of the highest priority in today's construction environment the risks associated with contractors of low quality working with untested and uncertified post-tensioning systems is no longer acceptable. It is a requirement for all anchorage systems be tested and certified to AS 1314.

Members of the PTIA will be required to meet specific standards and competencies as verified by third party audit for compliance with Australian Standards and PTIA criteria. These requirements will extend to post-tensioning system installers and major post-tensioning component suppliers.

President David Pash believes, *“The formation of the Post-Tensioning Institute will provide project managers, builders and building owners with assurance that its members are capable of delivering efficient, durable and safe post-tensioning systems by accredited member companies employing highly trained and skilled operators”.*

Five standing committees

The PTIA Board has established five standing committees to drive an ambitious programme to achieve the organisation’s objectives.

The Construction Standards committee has established a set of membership criteria for its Corporate and Associate members. These specify quality requirements in relation to technical competence, management plans, experienced and qualified staff, and adequate resources for the work at hand. Assessment will be by independent audit on application for membership and at regular intervals thereafter.

The Work Standards committee is well advanced in establishing requirements for training and experience of workers on post-tensioning construction sites, with particular emphasis on safety. Ongoing discussions are being held with WorkCover, TAFE and others regarding the establishment and delivery of relevant courses for operators and supervisors.

The Technical committee is charged with providing relevant technical developments and information to the industry. It has already participated in reviewing the Concrete Institute of Australia’s recommended practice on *Grouting of Prestressing Ducts* and will actively participate on the *Prestressed concrete anchorage zones* document. It has also prepared a *PTIA Concrete Specification* and is in discussions with Standards Australia regarding participation by PTIA on relevant SA code committees. Technical newsletters and seminars will be developed in the near future.

The Industry Viability committee is charged with ensuring that the building industry recognises the importance of selecting certified organisations for the installation of post-tensioning systems. It will aim to have post-tensioning systems installed by certified contractors (as verified by membership of the PTIA) similar to the UK requirement in the *CARES Model specification for bonded and unbonded post-tensioned flat slabs*.

The Membership and Publicity committee will support the PTIA’s ambitions through relevant membership activities and publicity.

Max Schweiger, chair of the membership committee says, *“The PTIA invites participants in the post-tensioning industry to seek membership, to gain the benefits of being able to demonstrate high standards of construction and materials, and to benefit from the many services which PTIA can offer them. Membership details can be found on the PTIA web site or by contacting PTIA directly”.*

Benefits of membership

Members of the PTIA will enjoy the benefits of recognition as competent and certified participants in the industry. They will gain from the opportunity to have a forum to present and discuss relevant technical and construction matters related to post-tensioning and to have access to training schemes for their field staff.

Building owners, builders and project managers engaging PTIA certified members will enjoy the assurance that the contractor is capable of delivering efficient, durable and safe post-tensioning systems. They may also accept proof of currency of PTIA membership without the need for a separate verification process, saving them both time and resources.

Contacting the PTIA

The PTIA has established a web site which can be viewed at www.ptia.org.au. Progressively, this site will provide more details on technical matters and projects, as well as links with other related organisations such as the Post-Tensioning Institute (PTI) in the USA which has been running since 1976.

The PTIA has engaged the services of Peter Mallesch as Executive Officer. Peter has many years of experience in post-tensioning systems and project and construction management of large and major capital works and development projects in Australia and South East Asia. His principal objectives will be to introduce the PTIA and its benefits to builders and project managers, to develop its training schemes and to provide support and information services to the industry. He is available to be contacted in relation to any enquiries regarding the Institute. Strategic planning and ongoing secretariat services have been being provided by Kevin Abrams of Abrams Marketing Pty Ltd.

Contact details for the PTIA are:

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PTIA members

The following organisations are some of the initial members of the PTIA.

