



# DISPLAY LEADERSHIP

Volume 7 Issue 2

**Thomas Electronics achieved the title of Global Excellence Award in the 2007 Western Sydney Industry Awards.**



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## Global Excellence Award

The Western Sydney Industry Awards (WSIA) are recognised as the most prestigious regional awards in Australia, acknowledging and rewarding excellence, innovation and leadership across Western Sydney's diverse range of industry sectors. As a WSIA finalist, Thomas was invited to attend the Finalists' Presentation at Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre, Penrith, to receive a certificate, presented by the Hon. Diane Beamer MP, Minister for Western Sydney. Thomas was also invited to attend the Gala Presentation Dinner, held at the Sydney Olympic Park, on 18 May, 2007.

The event commenced with a welcome from MC Amanda Keller, a witty radio host of 101.7 WS-FM. An introduction of WSIA finalists was followed, in which finalists were ushered onto the centre stage and presented with a mocktail, before leaving the stage to join the other guests.

As part of the formal proceedings, there were addresses from the Hon. Barbara Perry MP, Ms Lisa Hunt (General Manager of Transurban), and the Hon. Morris Iemma MP, Premier of New South Wales. Thomas was the winner of the Most Outstanding Small to Medium Enterprise (SME) in the 'Global Excellence' category, ahead of ASP Healthcare. Two trophies were presented to Mr Soon Chua, Thomas Chief Financial Officer, and photos were taken for media publicity.



L-R The Minister for Western Sydney Diane Beamer MP, Stephanie Hutchinson and Jason Clare.



L-R Matthew Cormack, Minister for Western Sydney Barbara Perry MP, Soon Chua and Neil Wilson.



Thomas Electronics and Ice Tech Australia.



Soon Chua, Chief Financial Controller.



*The Vigilare Operator Console was designed and built by Thomas, in partnership with Boeing Australia.*

## **Boeing Vigilare Console**

Thomas has recently completed the design and build of the Vigilare Console for Boeing Australia. The console provides a highly effective human-machine interface environment for the display and control of integrated information from a broad range of platforms used in ground / airborne surveillance and battlespace management. The console makes up a significant part of several key programs delivered by Boeing Australia, to the Australian Defence Force (ADF) as the foundation for its national network-centric warfare capability.

The mechanical design was based around the ease of accessibility of all mission critical equipment by an operator of body size and shape ranging from 5% to 95% of the population. Other critical aspects were specific clearances needed between security and public data lines, routed within the enclosure. The thermal design of the console provides a unique cooling mechanism where convection flow, generated

by its distinctively shaped air vents, expels hot air from within the enclosed areas. Finite Element Analysis of the design allows for over 250kg to be supported at its weakest area, exceeding customer requirements.

The success of the project is attributed to the collaboration between both Engineering Services Group and the Sales department for securing the contract from a long list of competing organisations. The tendering of such a project involved extensive documentation for achieving and maintaining conformance to a long list of customer requirements and military / commercial standards.

The Console has been well received by Boeing Australia and recently displayed at the 2007 Avalon Air Trade Show. Thomas is expecting to start production of these consoles later this year when Boeing Australia begins its national deployment of Vigilare.



*Kyoichi Agematsu and MD William Hutchinson*

## **Kyoichi Agematsu – Japanese and Korean Representative**

Thomas Electronics has appointed Mr Kyoichi Agematsu as Thomas' representative, promoting avionic services to the Japanese and Korean markets. His role includes both business development and product support for the avionic components supplied by Thomas.

Kyoichi was born in 1939, and graduated from Keio University in Japan. He joined Marubeni Corporation in 1964, which is one of the biggest trading houses in Japan, and was mainly involved in the export of railway systems to many

countries for more than 30 years. Subsequently, he held a number of senior roles in a leading international defence electronics company where he gained significant aviation industry knowledge over a period of 10 years.

Mr Agematsu enjoys excellent relationships with a number of Japanese Government Departments including the JCAB.

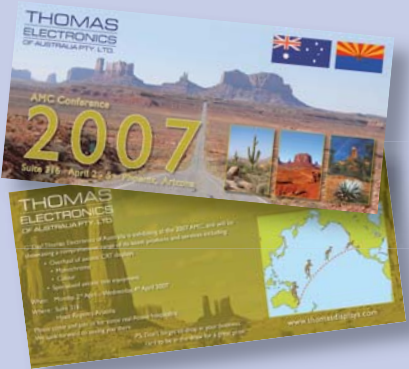
## **Avionics Maintenance Conference (AMC) 2007**

It was with great excitement that the Thomas team headed to Phoenix, Arizona, to host a hospitality suite at the Avionics Maintenance Conference (AMC) in the US.

Attended by aircraft operators from around the world, the conference identifies technical solutions to maintenance issues resulting in significant improvements and cost savings. This year in Phoenix, the Thomas team could enjoy the desert air and pleasant evenings. As always, the Thomas suite was extremely popular; it was a good opportunity for the team to thank our customers for their ongoing support and to offer them some good, old fashioned, Australian hospitality. The suites were all located around a

central courtyard which provided a very sociable atmosphere, in which everyone could mingle freely. One of the Thomas Team even ended up singing with the resident jazz band and was asked back for encores the next two nights!

The conference was also an opportunity for Thomas international team to meet and exchange ideas with their Australian counterparts. The Australian team came back with an improved understanding of the overseas markets, and new areas where Thomas can support their customers particularly in the rapidly growing European market.



## Thomas Electronic Services Group (ESG) moves to larger premises No. 10 Sheridan Close

ESG is expanding!!!

Work has already commenced on the fitting out of our new premises. Our contractors are working hard to ensure we can move in by August 2007.

We are very excited about the move, which promises to improve the ESG operations through better work and process flow. Besides comfortably housing our present ESG workforce, there will be ample additional space to allow flexibility for more efficient workflow configurations and to allow for future growth.

The new premises, across the road from our present facilities, will have a 400 sq metres workshop with humidity and air control. The new warehouse will have double the number of pallet spaces compared with our current premises. There will also be separate receiving and despatch docks, allowing us to better control the traffic from our freight and courier companies, which has proven to be a challenge in our current location.

The relocation of ESG to No. 10 will also "free-up" workshop space in our existing buildings for the growth of our engineering projects division.



No 10 Sheridan Close

## Nelson Mino – Project Team Leader/Design Engineer

Nelson joined Thomas in November 2003 as a Development Engineer. Having previously worked in the photonics industry, his first project was the optic/mechanical design of the visual systems for the Thales Crew Procedural Trainer (CPT).

In November 2005, Nelson was promoted to Projects Team Leader, reporting to Robert Riede. Nelson leads the Engineering Services Group, which comprises of four engineers and technicians. His current responsibilities are project management and engineering design.

The Group's recent successful projects include the completion of a dedicated Projection Tube assembly/alignment test set, build of various modules for the Raytheon Replacement Combat Systems on the Collins-class submarines, as well as the design/ build of the Boeing Vigilare Operator Console.

When asked what Nelson enjoys most about his new position, he said, "I enjoy leading a young, talented team, and having the opportunity to design and problem solve."

Nelson holds a Bachelor of Science in Physics, Masters of Mechatronic Engineering, as well as membership to the Society for Information Display (SID). He is currently studying Masters of Business Administration (MBA) at the University of Technology, Sydney.

"With increasing accessibility to information and new technologies, practicality or 'knowing how' is of greater demand over 'knowing that'. Our expansion into Research and Development will heavily utilise our team's resourcefulness and procedural skills", says Nelson Mino.



Nelson Mino

## SID International Symposium

Part of the Thomas Engineering team, Robert Riede and Nelson Mino, attended this year's SID (Society for Information Displays) International Symposium, held in Long Beach Convention Centre, California, on 20 – 25 May, 2007. SID provides access to a wide range of technology and applications from high definition flat panel displays to the latest in OLED (Organic Light Emitting Diode) displays and projection display systems, catering for scientists, engineers, manufacturers and users in the electronic display industry.

Thomas' purpose in attending the conference was to keep informed about current developments in display technology. A point of particular interest for the Thomas team was miniature displays.

Immediately evident was the fact that plasma displays had little prominence, while on the other hand, there were numerous advances in LCDs and projection display systems. One such innovative product was a laser video

projector housed in a case, slightly bigger than a matchbox.

Other advances in display technology included head mounted displays, flexible LCDs, LED (Light Emitting Device) backlights, simulation displays, high efficiency backlight inverters, electroluminescent displays, LCOS (Liquid Crystal on Silicon) displays, LCD repair and manufacturing equipment.

Thomas met many current and prospective customers/suppliers at the conference. These contacts will help the company to expand its customer base, and to improve as well as broaden the range of services it offers to customers. The team came back with a better understanding of the current trends in display technology, and with fresh ideas on the strategic directions that will be required to provide effective display support in the future. Thomas continues to be a centre of excellence in display technology in the Asia Pacific region.



One of Sharp's latest large LCD TV format.

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**THOMAS**  
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OF AUSTRALIA PTY. LTD.

## Managing Director's Message

We are now well into the second half of 2007 and Thomas continues to develop rapidly providing new challenges to our growing team. Fortunately, they are all strongly committed to the company's success and each new challenge is met and resolved.

I am pleased to report that we have recently completed the relocation of our ESG Business Unit into new larger premises at No. 10 Sheridan Close, providing both additional workshop space and improved materials handling which should cope with the future growth we envisage for this business unit. The relocation was carried out exceedingly well with virtually no interruption to our day to day business activities.

Our attendance at the 2007 Avionics Maintenance Conference in Phoenix was another great success providing the opportunity to get together with a large slice of our avionics customer base at the one time. We received excellent feedback and many constructive suggestions during the week which will only help to improve our support offering to airlines.

Moving forward, the company anticipates further growth across our range of specialist activities and to support this growth we are

adding resources to our engineering and quality assurance teams. We are very confident of winning significant defence related sub-contract work and subsequent through life support from the recently announced Air Warfare Destroyer (AWD) and Amphibious Ship (LHD) major programmes. Thomas is very proud of its twenty years support for the Australian Defence Force.

In May, we were delighted to receive another significant award for our export success winning the Western Sydney Industry Awards category for Global Excellence. This is the 3rd export award Thomas has won in the past six months and is a source of great pride to the management and staff.



William Hutchinson  
Managing Director.

## Products and Services

- Specialist depot level repair to
  - Electronic display systems
  - Military-spec electronic systems
  - Switch-mode power supplies
- Avionic display overhaul
- Customised engineering solutions
  - Engineering design
  - System integration
  - Electronic assembly
- Off-the-shelf equipment and product sales
- Technical support and repair for:
  - Commercial and military flight simulators
  - Weapon systems simulators

## Product Lines

- Conrac GmbH
- D. Marchiori (DMA)
- Vartech Systems
- ELZO Corporation of Japan

## Our Commitment to Customer Service

- We listen to you, our clients
- We are always ready to help
- We respond to your immediate and long-term needs
- We exceed expectations

## We welcome the ongoing challenge