



Improved TestSafe turnaround times boost industry innovation

Peter Ketley, BDM, Alstom Engineering Systems/Intelligent Systems

The Engineering Systems Division of ALSTOM Australia designs and installs mechanical, electrical and control systems for major road infrastructure projects. This has included the Sydney Harbour Tunnel, Eastern Distributor, M5 East, Liverpool Parramatta Transitway and currently the Westlink M7 and Lane Cove Tunnel. One particular feature of this series of projects has been the increase in quantity and complexity of electronic equipment used in them. The problem of finding special enclosures suitable for housing this growing volume of equipment meant that ALSTOM eventually decided that they would need to produce custom built enclosures rather than try to use “off the shelf” types. The major hurdle to do this appeared to be obtaining “Degree of Protection” testing and certification by an accredited third party.

“I remember how long it took to get things approved for “IP” in the early ‘90’s”, said Peter Ketley, BDM, ALSTOM Engineering Systems/Intelligent Systems. “When I was given the job to produce custom enclosures from scratch and have them “IP” certified and ready for field use within a few months, I was pessimistic that we could do it.”

Peter recounted stories of projects ten years ago, where waiting over a year to get testing and certification was commonplace. *“I contacted Vince Higginbotham at TestSafe (Londonderry) earlier this year expecting everything to be pretty much the same”, said Peter. “After a quick chat I realized that there was a different attitude but wasn’t sure that the delivery of service would be as good as it was painted. To say that they exceeded my expectations was an understatement. The first enclosure was certified within a month, even though we needed to take it away, modify it and bring it back for retesting”, said Peter. “The second enclosure passed first time. From delivering it to getting the Test Report only took three weeks - and the first week they couldn’t test for IP6X because of the high humidity caused by rain.”*

Congratulations to Vince Higginbotham and his team for providing the type of service that industry needs and for demonstrating the new culture at Londonderry.



*Electronic Road Safety Sign
manufactured by Alstom Engineering
and used on Motorways*

