

Media Release



15 January 2016

“Women in Power Engineering” Scholarships Open at Deakin University

Applications for the first scholarships for female engineering students to be offered under a major new partnership between Victoria’s largest energy service provider AusNet Services and Deakin University open on Monday 18 January 2016.

The AusNet Services Women in Power Engineering Scholarships will support women to achieve tertiary qualifications in power engineering, and prepare them for diverse and rewarding careers in the energy industry.

AusNet Services’ Managing Director, Nino Ficca, said the company understands the importance of encouraging talented women to enter the energy industry, in which they are vastly under-represented.

“We are proud to offer these scholarships, which form a key part of our efforts to increase the diversity of our business and the energy sector,” Mr Ficca said.

“The successful scholarship recipients will not only receive financial support, but mentoring opportunities and workplace experience at AusNet Services. They’ll also be some of the first students to learn in the recently opened state-of-the-art Centre for Advanced Design in Engineering Training (CADET) at Deakin University’s Waurin Ponds campus”.

“The Women in Power Engineering Scholarships complement AusNet Services’ Apprentice and Training program and Women’s Career Development program, which were started in 2005 and 2012 respectively and through which we have developed and trained more than 50 graduates, 260 apprentices and 100 women to strengthen our business,” he added.

The CADET Centre was built to enable engineering students to experience real-world scenarios through project-based learning.

Applications for the scholarships open on **Monday, 18 January 2016** and **close on Monday, 15 February 2016**. The scholarships will be awarded to successful female applicants entering Deakin’s Bachelor of Electrical and Electronics Engineering (Honours) degree. Each scholarship is valued at \$10,000 per year over the normal period of study.

For further information and how to apply, please go to: <http://www.deakin.edu.au/study-at-deakin/scholarships-and-awards/ausnet-services-women-in-power-engineering-scholarship>

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Eight Women in Power Engineering scholarships will be awarded as part of a broader five year partnership between AusNet Services and Deakin University that also includes two PhD scholarships and a postdoctoral research position.

The partnership will also involve a workshop for academics and industry leaders in early February at Deakin University, to explore ways to encourage female secondary school students to consider power engineering as a career pathway. AusNet Services' Managing Director, Nino Ficca and General Manager, People, Safety and Customer, Geraldine Leslie will be participating in the workshop, which will be hosted by Deakin University.

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About AusNet Services

AusNet Services is Victoria's largest energy delivery service, owning and operating approximately \$11 billion of electricity and gas distribution assets that connect into more than 1.3 million Victorian homes and businesses.

Based in Melbourne, AusNet Services employs more than 2,700, including its Select Solutions and Geomatic Technologies businesses, and is listed on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX: AST) and Singapore Exchange.