

Cross Country

March 2009

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Gilgandra FSC most improved

COUNTRY Energy's Gilgandra Field Service Centre has risen through the ranks to take out the *Most Improved (medium division) award* in the Service Delivery FSC Challenge Cup. Rising from 30th to 20th position in the 2008-09 second quarter, the North Western crew's hard work has paid dividends, resulting in first places in three of the seven key performance indicators (KPIs), including safety audits.

Executive General Manager
Infrastructure Operations, Gary

Humphreys, commended the *Gilgandra Panthers* on the fantastic results, saying, "They've worked extremely hard to achieve this."

The Panthers' team leader, Richard Gavin, said the team of 12 had banded well together, focussing attention on PTJs, works planning and maintaining safety audit scores in particular.

"The FSC Challenge has made everyone more aware of our KPIs and what we can do to improve," Richard said.

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The crew at Gilgandra FSC - Clayton Adams, Trevor Bell, Stuart Rogers, Adam Hazelton, Richard Gavin, Quinton McEwan, Darren Chandler, Mark Colwell, Joe Wood, Jacob Adams, Jason Adams, George Olaya. Absent: James Wood, Ross Coxsedge.

Technology not just a phase

COUNTRY Energy is the first utility in Australia to purchase a device that uses satellite technology to dramatically simplify the task of identifying phases on the network.

With the potential to reduce a two day job to an hour or so, the device has been used to balance loads on high voltage feeders as well as *phasing in* (synchronising) feeders linking zone substations.

The \$28,000 *Origo PhaseID System* consists of a base

station located near the source of the supply and a remote field probe used to contact the powerlines being investigated. Both the base station and the field probe have on-board GPS modules that use reference timing signals from at least three satellites to identify, compare and analyse the phases.

Power Quality Advisor, Steve Arnold, is sold on the system.

"It's a great tool which has proven to save us a lot of time

and money, reducing the risk of damage to our network," Steve said.

"When we need to balance loads on high voltage feeders we can do it in a fraction of the time that it would normally take.

"We'd normally drive the length of the feeder and visually check the wires, noting any transpositions or crossovers, so that we know which phase is which at each end of the feeder," Steve said.



The PhaseID tool.



Using the PhaseID System to identify the phase of a feeder wire.