

GAS FIELD SERVICES NAMED 2020 QUEENSLAND MINING CONTRACTOR OF THE YEAR

Gas Field Services have been named the Queensland Mining Contractor of the Year for 2020, at a sold-out black-tie gala held tonight in Mackay. The 2020 Queensland Mining Awards, recognising the state's hardest-working contractors, suppliers and producers, culminated in Wednesday night's presentation dinner.

Gas Field Services were named the winner in the Safety Initiative Award and were also strong contenders in the Productivity category for their 4C Wireline drilling technique.

Judges felt that for a small company, Gas Field Services' clear focus on investing in innovation makes a major impact in moving exploration methodology forward. The major industry accolade was presented in front of industry heavyweights and keynote speakers including Tyler Mitchelson, CEO, Anglo American Metallurgical Coal, Ian Macfarlane, Chief Executive of the Queensland Resources Council, and the Hon. Keith Pitt MP, Minister for Resources, Water and Northern Australia.

Minister Pitt congratulated all finalists and award winners of the evening, but said it's a year when all involved in the mining industry deserve recognition.

"The industry has gone to extraordinary lengths to keep workers and community safe through the COVID-19 pandemic, and this has paid real social and economic dividends," Minister Pitt said.

"At a time when it needs it most, the Queensland economy is being supported by the resources sector and importantly, thousands of Queenslanders have remained employed."

The Queensland Mining Awards were co-hosted by the Bowen Basin Mining Club and the Queensland Resources Council, recognising contractors, suppliers and producers across nine peer-judged categories.

The 29 finalist entries represented the true diversity of the industry, representing the full spectrum of major contractors and producers, right down to one-man businesses. Creative solutions to industry problems showcased skills in mathematics, engineering, environmental, human resources, procurement and manufacturing.

Bowen Basin Mining Club Director Jodie Currie was thrilled with how the event came together, showing that celebration is still in vogue, and can be safely accomplished in a COVID-19 safe environment.

"Tonight, we saw a celebration of the Queensland mining industry, one that was particularly sweet given the extraordinary circumstances we've seen this year. In two years, we look forward to once again partnering with Reed Exhibitions to host the 2022 Awards alongside the Queensland Mining and Engineering Exhibition in Mackay."

Gas Field Services' win tonight is truly representative of the resilience and creativity found across the sector, come what may," said Ms Currie.

A full list of finalists, winners and projects can be found at www.qldminingawards.com.

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(Category winners, judges' quotes and media contacts on following pages)

CATEGORY FINALISTS/WINNERS

MEDIA RELEASE

Award Name	Category Description	Finalists	Winner	Summary & Judges' Comments
METS Ignited Collaboration Award	The most outstanding collaborative effort between producers and contractors/suppliers, delivering results and enhancing cost-saving, time-saving and/or innovative outcomes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ava Risk Group • Mitchell Services • Uearthed Solutions • Universal Field Robots 	Ava Risk Group/Mining3	<p><i>Innovation through Collaboration</i></p> <p>Mining3 and Ava Risk Group collaborated to deliver a game-changing predictive conveyor monitoring system. Within 10 months, the team produced the Aura IQ, an innovative, low cost and flexible maintenance solution that uses fibre optics, signal processing algorithms and data analytics.</p> <p>Judge Sharna Glover said: <i>"This entry showed strong work over an extended period, with cross-industry collaboration."</i></p>
McLanahan Environment Award	The most innovative approach to environmental protection or rehabilitation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCB Australia • Mining3 • New Century Resources 	KCB Australia	<p><i>Isaac River Upstream Drop Structure</i></p> <p>The Isaac River Diversion's existing drop structure failed repeatedly under flood conditions. The new design's modelling predicts enhanced energy dissipation, improved flow stability and prevention of scour upstream.</p> <p><i>Judge Darren Oliver said:</i> <i>"An innovative engineering solution that met a clear need for improvement, considering the environment it needs to work in. This looks like it will achieve a much better result than the current solution."</i></p>
Greyhound Innovation (METS) Award	The most original and ground-breaking approach to a project, including any new concept, technology and/or innovative process that was instrumental in increasing operational efficiency or improving project delivery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emesent • Polymathian • Redeye Apps • Sedgman • Universal Field Robots & IMDEX 	Universal Field Robots & IMDEX	<p><i>Increased drill and blast safety, productivity and reduced risk</i></p> <p>Universal Field Robots and IMDEX conquered the challenge of logging blast holes, while removing operators from harm's way. The IMDEX BLASTDOG™ solution moved from concept to prototype in just four months, providing geological data and enhancing productivity.</p> <p>This was a hotly debated category, with judges looking at all five finalists as addressing the industry's big issues.</p> <p>Judge Sharna Glover said: <i>"A great innovation that shows the power of partnering. A robotics platform that is able to be exported makes a very commendable entry."</i></p>
JCB CEA Innovation (Miner) Award	The most original and ground-breaking approach to a project, including any new concept, technology and/or innovative process that was instrumental in increasing operational efficiency or improving project delivery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anglo American (Dawson Mine) • Anglo American 	Anglo American (Dawson Mine)	<p><i>World's first remote multi-pass drill supports safer operations</i></p> <p>The Anglo American (Dawson) team produced the first known rotary blasthole drill rig to complete multi-pass operations remotely. This removes operators from the field, with strong safety outcomes.</p> <p>Judge Andrew Wilson said: <i>"This initiative showed great ingenuity, and really challenges the status quo for the exploration industry."</i></p>

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Glencore Productivity Award	<p>A project completed through an innovation or new process which resulted in a significant time and/or cost-saving solution for the client.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gas Field Services • Polymathian • Vayeron 	Polymathian	<p>Maximising NPV with Industrial Mathematics</p> <p>Polymathian used their ORB mathematical solution to optimise mine planning for a client, condensing the planning process from weeks to just 12 hours. The client saw a 35% increase to NPV, with superior productivity outcomes.</p> <p>Judge Peter Kane said:</p> <p><i>“Applying cutting edge industrial mathematics to complex mine planning situations saves time and money, and Polymathian is now a major part of the intelligent mines of the future.”</i></p>
SMW Group Community/ Staff Award (award split into 2 divisions)	<p>The most outstanding community or internal consultation and engagement project.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anglo American • Hastings Deering • New Oakleigh Coal 	New Oakleigh Coal	<p>Jeebropilly Mine Closure – ‘Finishing Well’ program</p> <p>The Finishing Well program aimed to retain employees with a positive safety and productivity culture in the months leading up to the Jeebropilly mine’s closure. Staff retention through the 2-year program was 98.9%.</p> <p>Judge Dan Reynolds said:</p> <p><i>“A great program to transition employees through closure, whilst maintaining safe production and setting employees up for life.”</i></p>
SMW Group EEO Award (award split into 2 divisions)	<p>The most outstanding initiative to promote equal opportunity (whether indigenous, women in mining or a community initiative).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anglo American • Byerwen Coal Jangga Operations Macmahon 	Byerwen Coal Jangga Operations Macmahon	<p>Yila Yina Mundu (‘Turn Around from Here’) Program</p> <p>This collaborative effort built on the Thida Bullaroo (Step By Step) program, expanding QCoal’s Indigenous participation strategy. 24 new-to-industry roles were created, with full-time employment offered following completion of training. This increased Indigenous participation rates at Byerwen to over 12%.</p> <p>Judge Dan Reynolds said:</p> <p><i>“A positive initiative bringing the traditional owner, contractor, and mine owner together to promote Indigenous employment”.</i></p>
QME Best Product Launch Award	<p>This category highlights the most innovative product launched during May 2018 to April 2020.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ava Risk Group • BIS • Skopit • SMW Group 	BIS	<p>Razor: the proprietary underground grader increasing safety and performance</p> <p>BIS realised that innovation was sorely needed to fix inefficient, underpowered machinery that lacked reliability. Razor - developed, designed and manufactured in Australia - delivers over 30% increased tractive effort, improved braking and most importantly, improved safety.</p> <p>Judge Peter Kane said:</p> <p><i>“The BIS Razor was designed with miners, for miners and exhibits long awaited improvements in safety, efficiency, power and ergonomics. Great to see the conversion from the design board to the coal face.”</i></p>
Sonic Health Plus Safety Initiative Award	<p>The most outstanding initiative to make safety a priority on site, including continuous improvement and full integration into a project/initiative, with real results able to be demonstrated.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gas Field Services • Mastermyne • Waterline Projects 	Gas Field Services	<p>Hands Free Drilling – The Way of the Future</p> <p>Gas Field Services introduced the LF-160 Drill Rig and Freedom Loader. This solution drastically reduces manual handling and increases safety-critical functions with hands-free drilling</p> <p>Judge Chris Mijnsen said:</p> <p><i>“Eliminating manual handling is a great step forward to reduce high numbers of injuries and incidents.”</i></p>

CATEGORY FINALISTS/WINNERS

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Bowen Basin Mining Club Queensland Mining Contractor of the Year	Selected from category finalists/winners above, for excellence displayed across a number of categories.	Gas Field Services	<p><i>Awarded for safety, productivity and innovation across multiple categories.</i></p> <p>The judging panel felt that Gas Field Services clearly demonstrated strong innovation and a willingness to collaborate with OEMs to solve persistent industry issues. Their solutions were collaborative, innovative and had a strong safety element.</p> <p><i>“Gas Field Services is having a major impact on the way we think about exploration, innovation and technology in our industry.”</i></p> <p>- Dan Reynolds</p> <p><i>We’re happy to award someone in the exploration space, particularly a small company looking to make a big impact.”</i></p> <p>- Andrew Wilson</p> <p><i>We applaud the foresight and investment by Gas Field Services as a contractor to introduce significant technology to the Australian market.”</i></p> <p>- Darren Oliver</p>
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