

# MEDIA RELEASE



**Thiess Pty Ltd**  
A.C.N. 010 221 486  
A.B.N. 87 010 221 486

189 Grey Street  
South Bank QLD 4101

Locked Bag 2009  
South Brisbane QLD 4101  
Australia  
Telephone (07) 3121 8500  
Facsimile (07) 3121 8710

28 October 2008

## **Thiess wins Employer of Choice Award**

**A highly intuitive recruitment program has earned Thiess the Australian Mining Employer of Choice Award at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Australian Mining Prospect Awards.**

“Organisations are defined by their people,” said Michael Rosengren, General Manager for Thiess’ Australian Mining business.

“The global demand for talent has increased exponentially and we can no longer rely on traditional methods alone for attracting high calibre employees. Fortunately, we have a future orientated HR team with an incredible capacity to think outside the square and it is their commitment to engaging and nurturing relationships with previously untapped resources that continues to make such a positive contribution to Thiess today.”

Thiess was awarded the Australian Mining Employer of Choice Award after the company demonstrated a strong ability to successfully attract, train and retain staff through innovative and unique strategies. The primary feature of the nomination was a recruitment initiative launched earlier this year at the remote Burton Coal Mine in Queensland’s Bowen Basin.

Known as ‘*Enginbearing*’ the program listens to the needs of female engineers who are either stay at home mums or women seeking part-time work. Program coordinators made it a priority to meet these women in their everyday environments including childcare centres, schools, shopping centres and markets. Initial stages of the program include one-on-one mentoring and the formation of a support network with the ability to solve problems and address critical issues that may prevent women from returning to the workforce.

“One of the greatest challenges has been instilling the confidence in people to return to work after lengthy absences. These are professional women who just need to know we can facilitate their successful return through training and support,” explained Brenda Witt, HR Superintendent for the Burton mine.

The next step for successful candidates includes a visit by an IT representative who sets up a home office capable of linking the remote employee to site. The office is equipped to replicate the same level of access and functionality enjoyed by those working on site.

“There is no need or obligation for these employees to visit site, geography is not an issue,” said Ms Witt. “The hours they work are incredibly flexible and can be based around their home schedule which has been a huge advantage for mums and those living in surrounding districts.”

*Enginbearing* has successfully introduced several new recruits to the Burton team already this year including a process engineer and a technical support engineer.



Ms Witt believes the success achieved at Burton will be easily replicated across other sites because of the sensory foundation upon which the program is based.

“Engin*bearing* really does listen to the needs of everyday people and families. It goes a long way towards addressing many of the big issues such as childcare costs and availability, conflicting school schedules, and travel limitations to name a few. Our goal was to make a difference in the community by providing genuine career opportunities that are flexible and support work life balance. We’ve definitely achieved that and it’s the start of big things to come.”

During coming months Engin*bearing* will be introduced to other Thiess sites across Queensland.

Thiess is currently recruiting for a number of positions at mine sites throughout Australia. For more details visit [www.thiess.com.au/Careers](http://www.thiess.com.au/Careers)

**For further information:**

Leah Davis  
Communications Manager  
Thiess Pty Ltd  
Ph: (+617) 3121 8581  
Mob: 0437 183 258

**Image Details:**

**Image 1** – Brenda Witt, HR Superintendent for Burton Coal Mine with James Walsh of People Intelligence (sponsor of the Australian Mining Employer of Choice Award), and Simone Wetzlar, Area Manager for Thiess’ Australian Mining business.

**Image 2** – Simone Wetzlar, Area Manager for Thiess’ Australian Mining business accepts the award.