

Opportunity comes knocking

Over the next 12 to 18 months, steel processing and manufacturing company RPG Australia will grow as it transitions into the resource sector.



MANUFACTURING

RPG Holdings

CEO
Mike Lewis

Established: 1950
Revenue: \$160 million
Staff: 260+

Mike Lewis

IT'S the domestic market where CEO Mike Lewis has identified the hottest prospects.

"We're transitioning our business to get involved in these sectors and have already secured quite a few large contracts."

While there's a confidentiality agreement in place, the contracts are with some of the state's largest coal exporters, while fringe work has also been locked away in the coal seam gas space.

RPG operates from four manufacturing sites across South East Queensland and South Australia.

RPG Wacol is the company's engine room. At 22,000sq m, it is the largest and most equipped manufacturing centre, providing heavy steel processing capabilities both directly to clients and in-house.

Richlands is where the company's oil and gas projects are managed. Turnkey solutions for clients in this sector offer strong capability across the complete project value chain including project design, engineering, supply chain inputs and processing fabrication. It's also where bolted and welded tank manufacture and large diameter pipe fabrication in both traditional and spiral methods for pipelines and pilings take place.

Lewis questions whether now is the right time to introduce a carbon tax, but sees emerging opportunity in clean technologies.

"We expect the carbon tax to stimulate investment into renewable energy, which we're also well placed to take advantage of," he says.

"We've found the mining tax doesn't appear to be holding back these industries at the moment, so for us the major sectors we see as attractive are mining and civil infrastructure. It is a competitive market, but we're a quality supplier that can respond to short lead time, deliver on time and work closely with our clients to achieve this."

The company's Adelaide manufacturing site is dedicated to both wind tower manufacture for the renewable energy sector and serial manufacture of assemblies including engineering and infrastructure defence.

RPG Dalby was also set up for renewables, but is now equipped to respond to the company's mining, oil and gas clients with the ability to undertake heavy steel processing and fabrication of components and pipes.

A purpose-built manufacturing shed, including a large blast and paint facility has also been added to the site to offer further integration and manage overflow when large wind energy projects come online.

In addition to the company's four manufacturing sites, the corporate office is co-located at RPG Wacol and there is an office in Melbourne to service clients in the southern states.