Boeing Australia Wins Highest National Award for Business Excellence

Boeing Australia's dedication to helping customers improve their business has been recognised by the nation's premier business award: the Australian Business Excellence Medal.

Presented by Standards Australia, the Medal acknowledges Boeing Australia Limited as the most outstanding company in the 15th annual Australian Business Excellence Awards. Boeing Australia was assessed on its performance against the seven categories of the internationally recognised Australian Business Excellence Framework (ABEF), comprising Leadership & Innovation; Strategy & Planning; Data, Information & Knowledge; People; Customer & Market Focus; Processes Products & Services; and Business Results.

Speaking at the awards ceremony in Melbourne last Friday, the general manager of the Australian Business Excellence Awards, Ms Leonie Muldoon, said the award evaluators had identified several strengths in Boeing Australia's management systems, including the Lean Enterprise initiative, Process based management, Leadership development, Project management training, Process councils, and Mentoring.

"The team at Boeing has shown Australia and the world that they are nothing short of exceptional, and I am delighted by this success," Ms Muldoon said.

Boeing Australia Limited managing director, Mr David Gray said it was an honour to receive the award on behalf of all 1500 Boeing Australia employees, but was quick to add that this was just the start of an ongoing journey.

"We first embraced the ABEF about two years ago as we recognised a need to find a framework for all our processes, strategies, systems and improvement initiatives; to ensure optimum integration and synergies, and to identify relevant measures," Gray said. "We did this, not to win an award but to improve our business.

"The award signifies that, while there are many things in our business that we do very well, there is still room for improvement and the ABEF will continue to provide us with the framework we need to identify and capitalise on those opportunities."

The Australian Business Excellence Medal follows Boeing Australia's win of a 2002 Australian Design Award for Engineering Excellence.

Boeing Australia Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Boeing Australia Holdings Pty Ltd, is a high technology company specialising in design, development, manufacture and installation of complex defence and commercial systems. Boeing Australia Limited is headquartered in Brisbane and has staff in 16 locations around Australia supporting defence and other customers.

Through mergers and acquisition, The Boeing Company has been involved in the Australian aircraft and defence businesses for more than 75 years and currently has nearly 3,000 employees throughout the country.

In the last five years, Boeing has invested $A579 million in facilities, plant, equipment, and employment and training of Australians and technology transfer, $265 million (1997-2001) in local research and development and has exported aerostructure components and high technology services worth some $1.25bn.

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