



Press Release
For immediate release
30 April 2015

Minister of Energy and Resources to Open New State of the Art PowerNet Head Office in Invercargill

The Minister of Energy and Resources, Simon Bridges, will open PowerNet's new head office in Invercargill tomorrow, completing a significant period of growth for the network management company.

"The opening rounds out what has been a very exciting and busy period for PowerNet, and establishes a base for what will be a very exciting future for the company," PowerNet chief executive Jason Franklin says.

"We have amalgamated our field service businesses into PowerNet, started the smart meter deployment across Southland and West Otago, managed significant electricity network investment, and assisted our shareholders enter into a new wind generation joint venture in the South, as well as take full ownership of the OtagoNet electricity network.

"To reinforce the links with our community, we have also entered into a community partnership with the Order of St John. "

"Today is the ideal opportunity to mark the opening of the new building, with the Minister of Energy and Resources, Simon Bridges, visiting Invercargill," Mr Franklin says.

The new office, located on the existing Racecourse Road site, has been built to the highest seismic rating. It will accommodate the PowerNet network system control function, and has its own self-contained power and water supply to ensure resilience in the event of a natural disaster.

Mr Franklin says, until now, PowerNet staff had been spread throughout various buildings on the Racecourse Road site.

"It was a massive job to meet the seismic safety requirements. Every steel joint had to be x-rayed to meet the code. Now we have a very strong, purpose built building that will serve us well into the future."

Mr Franklin complimented the achievements of PowerNet General Manager – Business Support Tim Brown in overseeing the project.

“It was a very big job and Tim made sure targets were met and the process ran smoothly.”

The build construction was carried out by Calder Stewart Construction and fitted out by Invercargill based Metalon Products. McCulloch Architects designed the building and the construction was project managed by Southern Quantity Surveyors (SQS). McCulloch and SQS are both locally based firms.

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Note: the opening will take place from 10.30am on Friday 1 May on site at Racecourse Road Invercargill.

Attached

PowerNet Fact sheet and photograph