

WRP Pty Ltd wins 2010 African Energy Award for Demand Side Management.

WRP Pty Ltd, the Pretoria based engineering company and part of the international Miya Group, won the award for Demand Side Management at the 3rd annual African Energy Awards held at the Sandton Sun hotel on 17th March. The African Energy Awards are presented annually by Terrapinn and have become recognized as the premier awards dedicated solely to the energy sector in Africa. This year's event was the 3rd annual awards evening and was attended by over 200 company representatives from around the globe representing over 70 nominated projects. 10 awards were presented of which 2 were won by South African companies and the remainder by international companies. The Demand Side Management Award is the latest of several other national and international awards won by WRP Pty Ltd for their Advanced Pressure Management project which was commissioned south of Johannesburg in the Sebokeng and Evaton areas and has now been operating successfully for the past 5 years. The project was commissioned in 2005 as a small scale Public private Partnership and it has been running uninterrupted for the last 5 years which was the operations and maintenance period for the installation.

This is the first time that WRP has received an energy saving award which is particularly significant in South Africa at this time of intermittent power shortages. Although the Pressure Management project was designed specifically to reduce water wastage, it is located in Gauteng where virtually all water supplied has been pumped to some extent. Any savings in water use therefore also represent energy savings through the reduced pumping requirements.

The actual measured savings resulting from the WRP Pressure Management installation are approximately 50 million kl of water over a 5-year period representing financial savings to the Municipality of more than R150 million. The energy savings were conservatively estimated to be approximately 70 000 tonnes of CO2 equivalent and this was one of the main considerations on which WRP Pty Ltd won the prestigious African Energy Award. The project has previously won awards for technical excellence from the South African Association of Consulting Engineers, The South African Institute of Municipal Engineering and the South African Association of Civil Engineering as well as several awards from various international conferences over the past few years.

Competition for the African Energy Awards is becoming very intense from many large national and international companies. The previous winner of the Demand Side Management Award was Phillips from the Netherlands which won in 2009 for its new energy efficient range of light bulbs. The project has also been selected as one of 4 finalists in the forthcoming International Water Efficiency Awards to be held in Paris in April 2010. It highlights the high regard held for South African engineering by the international community.



Dr Ronnie Mckenzie receiving the Demand Side Management Award at the 3rd annual African Energy Awards held in the Sandton Sun Hotel in Johannesburg on 17 March 2010.