



12 February 2009

ABBOTSFORD BREWERY FORGES ALLIANCE WITH MAINTENANCE PROVIDER

Foster's Group Ltd (Foster's) today announced that it had entered into a five year alliance with a specialist Maintenance provider, ABB Australia Pty Ltd (ABB).

The move will make approximately 115 Abbotsford Brewery employees redundant, all of whom will receive redundancy packages and payment of all entitlements. These Foster's employees will also be able to apply for positions with ABB based at the Abbotsford Brewery.

Foster's is working closely with ABB to ensure nine maintenance apprentices currently employed at the Brewery will have their indentures transferred to the new provider.

Mr Michael Stoneman, General Manager of the Abbotsford Brewery, said that a recent review had identified significant gaps between performance levels within the Maintenance function at the Brewery and best practice globally.

"Our core business is making great beer," he said. "It's a tough decision but we've benchmarked ourselves against other leading manufacturers around the world. We must strive to be best practice in every aspect of our business. To continue to be competitive we must improve."

ABB provides specialist maintenance services to manufacturing companies including 18 breweries worldwide.

ABB will commence its recruitment immediately, with the aim of taking over responsibility for Maintenance services at the Abbotsford site from 12 March 2009.

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Further information

- Foster's Abbotsford Brewery is the equal largest brewery in Australia, producing and sourcing 140 different beverages (including beer, wine, spirits, ciders and non-alcohol products) for over 6,000 customers throughout Victoria, several distribution centres around Australia and 70 international destinations.
- The Abbotsford Brewery has approximately 470 personnel, 115 of whom work in Maintenance (94 Award, 11 Staff and nine apprentices). The Brewery operates 24 hours a day, five days a week, increasing to six or seven days at peak periods.
- Maintenance employees are responsible for maintaining and repairing production equipment such as fillers, boilers, packaging lines, etc.
- ABB has previously provided productivity, efficiency and reliability gains of up to 20 per cent (from the point of implementation) to similar Australian manufacturing companies by using best practice systems, processes and work methods.
- ABB provides specialist maintenance services to manufacturing companies including 18 breweries worldwide.
- Approximately 50 per cent of Australian food and beverage makers outsource maintenance services.