

Fifth Anniversary of SMEC Foundation

It hardly seems possible that the SMEC Foundation has now been established for five years.

The Board of SMEC Holdings Limited decided early in 2001 to establish the Foundation with effect from 1 July of that year. I was invited to become the inaugural Chairman of the Foundation which became fully operational later that year with official launches in Cooma and Canberra. During the past five years the Foundation has achieved a number of milestones, including:

- creation from scratch of operational procedures and guidelines
- development of a portfolio of projects across much of the SMEC footprint in Australia and overseas
- management of the SMEC response to the Asian tsunami.

The group of people associated closely with the Foundation has been very stable. The Committee which I chair included from the outset Jill Hickson and Les Douglas. Roger Bayliss kindly offered his services when he joined the SMEC Board in late 2002 and has made a valuable contribution since then. Administrative support has been very adequately provided by Breige McKenzie and David Guy. Sebastian Burgman has recently offered to take on the secretarial responsibilities and I am pleased to welcome him to the team. Much remains for the Foundation to do in the next few years, in particular:

- expansion of the operations into new geographical areas
- strengthening our links with comparable organizations
- more opportunities for SMEC staff to assist with the Foundation's financing, development and supervision of projects
- completion of incorporation and securing of tax deductibility status with the assistance of Gary Clark and Philip Wilcox.

I am pleased with the progress we have made to date. This would not have been possible without the efforts not only of the SMEC Foundation Management Committee and its supports staff but also of many SMEC staff members in Australia and overseas who have contributed donations, ideas for new projects and time to oversee activities in their respective regions. To all involved I offer my very sincere thanks and I look forward with keen anticipation to the even greater achievements which I am confident lie ahead.

D.G. Price, AM
Chairman