

THE LIGHT THAT TOWERS ABOVE OTHERS

Night work is inherently hazardous, but the risk associated with it can be significantly mitigated by utilising properly designed and adequate lighting solutions.



The Light Tower is manufactured in Australia by Sydney based company Australian Light Tower and is one of the latest lighting products to hit the Australian market. According to Stephen Crocker, one of the company's directors, sales are already proving better than expected, with the first two targeted industry sectors of mining and emergency services eagerly embracing the product.

Crocker told SES it seems "whoever sees the Light Tower has bought it."

"It is a particularly exciting time for the company right now. We are really starting to see the Light Tower take off." Crocker said.

Crocker said the decision to tap the Australian market came after some initial market research demonstrated there was a need for the Light Tower within several industry sectors, particularly because a lot of Australian projects are located in remote areas without supporting infrastructure. "We approached several key players within the Search & Rescue and Defence sectors," Crocker said. "We found that there was no other rapidly deployable, cost effective lighting solution that could match the Light Tower's capabilities, especially in emergency and disaster situations".

The Light Towers have a proven record in S&R and disaster response overseas and are also used by road construction and maintenance crews. Interestingly, they have been used by the Russian space program to recover space modules on their return to earth.

"The Light Tower has demonstrated it's ability to operate under harsh conditions, from remote, freezing regions of Russia to the heat of the Iranian desert," Crocker states.

"The array of projects that can use the tower is endless and from major repairs on the European railway network,

to emergency works and military and space rescue, the Light Tower's applications are constantly being tested and every time it has excelled.

Several Light Towers have been sold to various SES units, and have received great reviews. According to Gosford SES Controller Rolf Garda.

"We recently purchased the Light Tower and have been impressed by its versatility and functionality. We have used it during training and have found it to be excellent during roof operations and outdoor night events.

The light is a softer light, unlike the harsh flood lights and this enables our operators to retain their night vision. The fluorescent type light emitting from above the work site greatly reduces the shadow that normally accompanies flood lights.

The light produces minimal heat and packs up very quickly. It is easily carried by one person (we purchased the unit without the Generator). Our members believe that this light will be very useful during any job that requires light from above, especially roof jobs and tree jobs".

Crocker believes the ease with which the Light Tower can be transported, in a standard car boot and operated by one person with minimal training and deployed in less than 60 seconds has been a huge selling point for the product. Users can focus on the task at hand rather than be distracted by lighting issues.

The lighting unit consists of an adjustable tube 3-5m high of semi transparent light diffusing material and a generator. The powered fan at the base of the unit inflates the tube to the required height and the high pressure sodium or metal halide lamp illuminates the area covering approximately 10,000 square metres with a guaranteed luminous flux of 90,000lm.

The Light Tower uses a tube made of a special material that assists with the throw of light and because it is pressurized it holds the light source up to 5m above the ground. The tube has been tested in wind speed up to 72km per hour and is water proof to IP65-44.

The low running cost and ease of maintenance is another major advantage of the system, according to Crocker, with replacement light bulbs costing under \$100, "that is 75% less than the current replacement cost in similar systems," he said.

The Light Tower can connect to mains power at 240volts/50Hz or be powered by its own fuel efficient 4-stroke generator with capacity 1.5-2.2kW, particularly useful in remote areas or for emergency situations.

One such emergency situation which put the Light Towers to good use was the recent Iran earthquakes, where emergency workers used the lights to assist rescue attempts in collapsed and damaged buildings. Another handy feature is that the height of the light tower can be adjusted to accommodate low ceilings and the tube can be laid horizontal when running of mains power to make it ideal for dark confined spaces.

The Light Tower is now being manufactured in Melbourne and has just completed testing for its Australian Standards Approval 3100 and "C Tick". It already holds several overseas approvals including European CE approval.

The system is also protected by a worldwide patent and manufacturing standards are strictly controlled by the patent holders.

If a demonstration is required feel free to contact Gosford SES

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