

Citation for Martin Carl Albrecht AC

Graduation: Wednesday, 1st April 2009, 3:00pm



Officiator: Dr Ian Gould

Award recipient: Mr Martin Carl Albrecht AC
BTech (Civil), DUniv, HonDEng , FTSE, FIE Aust, FAICD, FAIM

Award being conferred: Honorary Doctor of the University of South Australia (DUniv)

Citation delivered by: Professor Gerry Griffin
BCom(Hons), MBS, PhD

Chancellor, the University of South Australia awards the Honorary Doctorate Degree to a person of eminence who has made a distinguished contribution to the public service or a field of academic endeavour. It is my pleasure to present to you Martin Carl Albrecht AC for the honorary degree of 'Doctor of the University', in recognition of his contribution to engineering and environmental sustainability.

Martin Albrecht, an alumnus of the South Australian Institute of Technology, one of the University's antecedent institutions, is a recognised leader in the construction and engineering industries.

Mr Albrecht's working life began at the Engineering and Water Supply Department in Adelaide, and in 1965 he took the opportunity to work on the Snowy Mountains Scheme, now considered to be Australia's greatest engineering feat of the last century. It was during this time that he was exposed to the leadership of one of Australia's greatest engineers, Sir William Hudson, and learned the real value of work place health and safety and community engagement.

This experience was followed by appointments of increasing seniority at Kaiser Engineers and Nabalco, and in 1970 Mr Albrecht joined Leighton Contractors and was later promoted to role of Manager of Civil Engineering, New South Wales.

In 1976, Mr Albrecht's career took him to Canada and the United States, and he returned to Australia in 1984 to join Thiess as Operations Manager. A year later he was made the company's Managing Director. During his 15 years in the role, Mr Albrecht helped to establish the company as one of the largest multi-disciplined engineering, construction and mining companies in Australia.

Thiess offers a unique range of integrated services in mining, engineering, environmental sustainability, facilities management, building and telecommunications. Today the company employs over 17,000 people and has operations located throughout Australia, Indonesia and South-East Asia. Its turnover exceeds \$5 billion.

Mr Albrecht retired as Managing Director of Thiess in 2000, and was appointed as Non Executive Chairman of Thiess and a Director of Leighton Holdings Limited in 2001. Mr Albrecht has continued to play an instrumental role in the areas of education and corporate social responsibility through these and numerous other roles on industry boards and committees.

Mr Albrecht is currently Chairman of Exergen Proprietary Limited, a clean coal technology company, and Chairman of Geodynamics Limited, a company formed to generate renewable geothermal

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energy from hot fractured rocks in Australia. He is also Chairman of the Wesley Medical Research Institute and the International Riverfoundation.

He is Patron of the Brisbane Regional Youth Orchestra and The Lifestream Foundation for people with intellectual disabilities, and serves on the Queensland Premier's Business Round Table and the Board of Governors for CEDA (Committee for Economic Development of Australia).

Mr Albrecht takes an active interest in a wide range of government, community, education and cultural activities and was a foundation Board Member of the Australian Constructors' Association and a former Director of the German-Australian Chamber of Industry and Commerce.

Mr Albrecht received his Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) in 2002 for his services to the construction industry, and was subsequently awarded the Centenary Medal in 2003.

He is also the recipient of Distinguished Constructors Awards from the Australian Constructors' Association and the Queensland University of Technology (QUT), and has received Honorary Doctorates from both the University of Queensland and QUT.

Mr Albrecht was inducted into the Hall of Fame for Engineers Australia, Queensland Division, in 2006. Additionally, he is the recipient of the AICD Queensland Gold Medal Award for 2008, and the EPA Queensland Premier's Award for Leadership in Business Sustainability for 2008.

Chancellor, on behalf of the University of South Australia I am pleased to present Mr Martin Albrecht to you for the honorary degree of 'Doctor of the University', in recognition of his significant contribution to the construction and engineering profession, the community and environmental sustainability.