

# PRESS RELEASE

## Thomson Bridge partners with North American power grid simulation and training specialist IncSys to create Power Grid Training for renewable energy generators

Thomson Bridge is a leader in the delivery of training services to the power sector. In response to industry demand, we are launching a new training series to address the principles and practices of Australian power grid dynamics and how it impacts the operations of control rooms across the transmission, distribution and generation sectors.

Our first series of power grid simulation training will focus specifically on the **renewable generation** sector and the roles, responsibilities and challenges for wind and solar generators. The training is targeted to renewable plant/site managers who are monitoring their site electrically, and senior decision makers managing renewable portfolio assets. These programs can be customised for all renewable stakeholders depending on the required focus and degree of technical complexity.

The launch of Series One training is aimed to equip renewable stakeholders with the necessary technical and operational knowledge to perform their obligations as a generator. It will provide insight into the dynamics of voltage control, security and reliability that impact on decision making.

We have sought a highly experienced partner in this journey, and joined forces with North American power grid simulation specialists, Incremental Systems Corporation (IncSys) and PowerData Corporation.

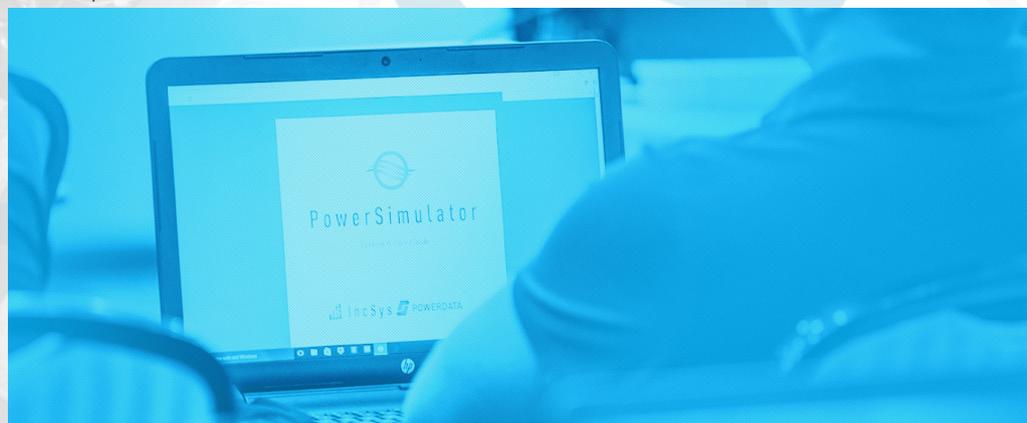
IncSys and PowerData have 30 years of experience in the application of power grid simulators for training power system operators. Together, they have developed PowerSimulator®, the leading platform for massive simulations of large interconnections with a hundred plus participants playing real-time roles of transmission operators, balancing operators, generator operators, substation operators and reliability

coordinators. Blackouts do not respect corporate boundaries and PowerSimulator® is a sought after tool for training operators on how to work with their supporting and neighbouring operators.

The IncSys Academy makes PowerSimulator® available to individual operators with generic models in an on-line self-paced format. IncSys Academy plays an important role in assisting utility field workers transition into system operator positions.

As a leading educator in renewable power in Australia, Thomson Bridge, together with IncSys has consulted with AEMO and experienced Power Systems Controllers, to develop training programs to provide renewable stakeholders with a detailed understanding of principles, practices and problems associated with power grid dynamics and how it impacts the operations of a renewable generator as well as the local and wider grid.

Renewable generators operating within this complex power grid must be responsive to the requirements of transmission and distribution network owners under their connection agreements and the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO), who manage the electricity markets and system security across Australia.



# PRESS RELEASE

Thomson Bridge Managing Director, Lisa Parkinson, says, “PowerSimulator® enables scenario-based training in an interactive environment for site supervisors and energy control coordinators to diagnose faults, determine restorations and communicate with transmission, distribution and AEMO control room personnel”.

This power systems operations training for renewable stakeholders will feature instructor-led courses and workshops as well as a subscription-based service to enable participants to access IncSys Academy simulation based scenarios designed to reflect realistic power grid situations. This highly realistic yet affordable grid simulation is delivered on demand to the desk top, without complex user requirements.

IncSys founder and CEO, Robin Podmore says “PowerSimulator® offers an affordable approach to achieving the high performance and user flexibility necessary to tackle today’s diverse training and operating challenges. Our realistic models allow operators to experience emergency operation conditions without the risks of interacting with a live power system.”

IncSys and PowerData have a long history of facilitating scenario-based workshops for large and small network

operators. For example, in North America PJM Interconnection have used PowerSimulator™ since 2003 to support its annual System Operator workshop. In 2019, the workshop included more than 1,000 operators across several states where PowerSimulator® enabled contingency response and system restoration drills to put system operators’ knowledge to the test. PJM is a regional transmission organisation (RTO) that coordinates the movement of wholesale electricity across 13 states and serves more than 65 million people.

In Australia, projects are currently underway within a NSW DNSP to incorporate PowerSimulator® into a major grid simulation training and diagnostic initiative having recognised that “an operator’s knowledge and competence is noticeably amplified when they are able to apply their understanding and skills in a controlled, yet realistic simulation environment”.

The Thomson Bridge/IncSys team of experts hold an array of industry experience and qualifications. They understand the industry-specific challenges renewable generators face in their role which requires balancing the goals of optimising generator performance and participating in maintaining a functional, secure and reliable grid.



For more information on how Thomson Bridge can assist your organisation please contact our team at [info@thomsonbridge.com](mailto:info@thomsonbridge.com), or call us on **1300 15 66 85**.