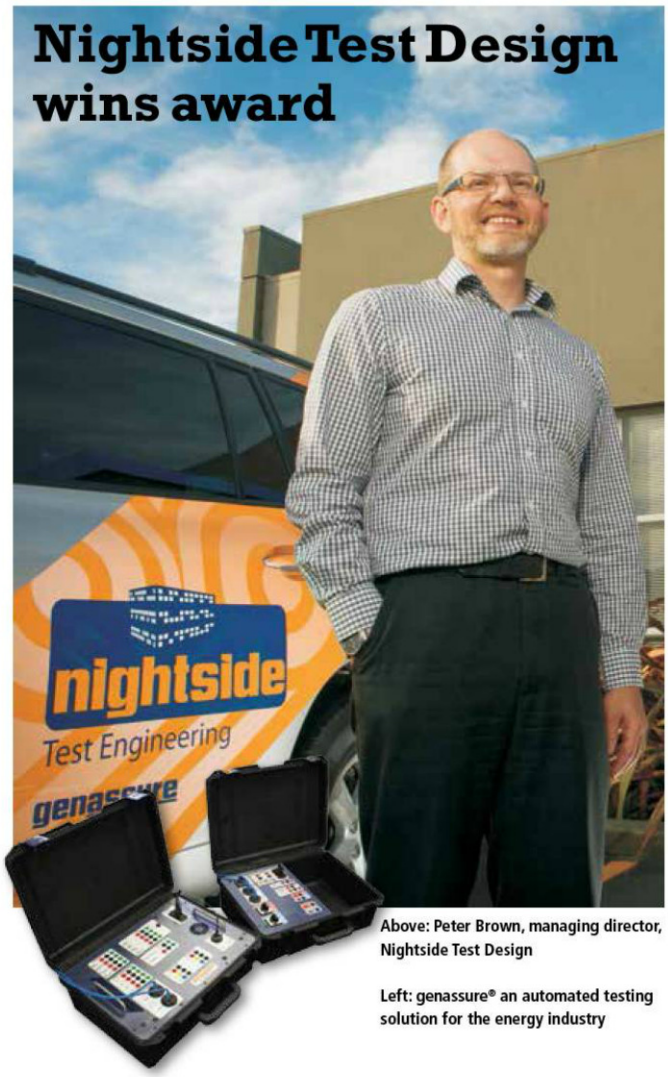
Nightside Test Design wins award



Above: Peter Brown, managing director, Nightside Test Design

Left: genassure® an automated testing solution for the energy industry

Nightside Test Design was awarded the Professional Service (Small Enterprise) category at the 2013 Champion Canterbury Business Awards in early October.

Christchurch-based Nightside is the largest test engineering specialist service provider in New Zealand and the largest National Instruments Alliance Partner.

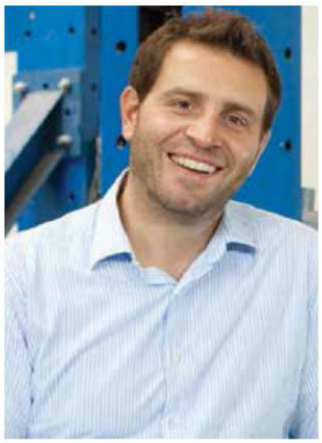
The company's professional services cover the full product development lifecycle from design to production, including software testing, production testing, embedded development, industrial control, measurement and data logging. It recently opened a satellite office in Auckland.

Nightside founder and managing director Peter Brown says the award is a huge honour and a wonderful way to celebrate 12 years in business. "Over that time many loyal clients like Meridian Energy and Dynamic Controls have turned to Nightside for help in applying best practice in test engineering, whether in their laboratories, design studios, manufacturing plants or field operations. As specialists we work across a range of industries and get to see many interesting technical challenges, innovative products and exciting market opportunities," he comments.

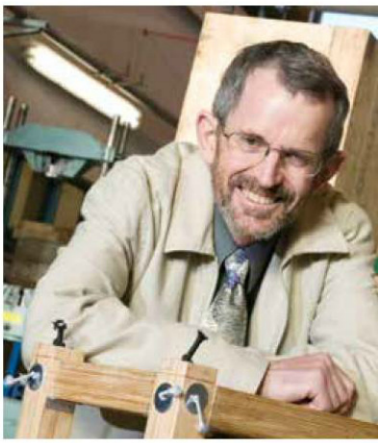
The Champion Canterbury award submission highlighted the company's commitment to client and employee satisfaction and to the Canterbury region as a whole. It also recognised Nightside Test Design's innovation and creativity – in particular the development of an automated testing solution for the energy industry, genassure®. This testing solution has standardised methods of generator testing, dramatically reduced downtime and related revenue loss, and introduced real time analysis.

Nightside has used genassure with most major New Zealand energy providers, and some in Australia, to overcome the challenges associated with new industry compliance regulations and is also planning market entry into the USA in the next year. The company was also a finalist in the CDC Innovation/Technology category of the awards.

Academic engineers recognised by the University of Canterbury



Dr Alessandro Palermo



Professor Andy Buchanan

The University of Canterbury (UC) recently recognised three engineers for their efforts in playing a significant part in the rebuild of Christchurch.

Civil and natural resource engineers Professor Andy Buchanan, Associate Professor Stefano Pampanin and Dr Alessandro Palermo were awarded UC's Innovation Medal for using their academic knowledge to benefit the wider community. The trio won the medals in recognition of their innovative contribution to a new system of earthquake-resistant buildings using post-tensioned structural timber, referred to as pres-lam (pre-stressed laminated timber).

College of Engineering Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Jan Evans-Freeman says she is thrilled their outstanding work has been acknowledged by UC. "This is the result of many years' work, and creative and innovative thinking, culminating in successful application by the team involved.

New building brings extra efficiency for exporter

Dairy technology exporter Waikato Milking Systems is on track to open the first building of a new $12 million complex at Northgate Business Park, north of Hamilton, in November 2013.

The 3900 square metre building will bring together three of the wholly New Zealand-owned designer and manufacturer of innovative milking equipment's manufacturing divisions on the same site for the first time. "Our new complex is being purpose built, which gives us the opportunity to streamline our manufacturing processes and make our business more efficient," Waikato Milking Systems managing director John Anderson says.

New technology that will be introduced includes an industrial robot welder that is automated to move around different work stations to perform different welding functions. No jobs will be lost, but there will be significant gains in efficiency, Mr Anderson says. The investment in the mobilised robot, from New Zealand company Carbines Engineering, amounts to about $80,000.

The company has also invested $100,000 in a new bridge crane to improve raw material handling, saving more than $200,000 in building costs. Previously it stored raw steel until it was needed but now the crane will deliver the steel immediately to the saw. Other improvements include a move to lean manufacturing principles in making rotary milking platforms, a flagship product for the company. The company is also negotiating 'just in time' supply arrangements that will allow it to save money in storage costs while still getting discounts for bulk buying.