

Dear Sirs

The following is a particular case of skills shortage in the Building Services Industry

Background

I am a professional engineer who worked with the Commonwealth Department of Construction as a design engineer from 1958 to 1980. In the last few years with the Department I moved to the Technical Computing Section and helped develop a number of building services design computer programs. When the Department was closed down I moved to the Association of Computer Aided Design (ACADS) and continued the work of developing these and new programs but also making these programs available to the private sector (Consultants, Contractors and Tertiary Institutes. In 1996 ACADS ceased business and a separate company was formed (ACADS-BSG) to continue with the work of on-going development of these programs, distributing the programs and training users.

I am one of the two Directors of the company and my qualifications are:

B.E. (Mech) University of Melbourne

M.Sc (Noise & Vibration) Southampton UK

L.AIRAH, F.AIE, F.IE Aust, MAAS

The main computer programs that we maintain and distribute are:

CAMEL - Air conditioning Load Estimation

BEAVER - Building Energy Simulation for use in checking BCA Section J compliance, NABERS and Green Star Ratings

DONKEY - Air conditioning Ductwork design including a full acoustical analysis

PYTHON - Air conditioning Piping Design

HYENA - Fire Sprinkler and Hydrant Systems design

We are the only Australian owned company developing and supporting this range of programs and we have over 500 companies using our software

How the Skills Shortage Affects Our Business

I am now 73 years of age and looking to retire. We have advertised for a replacement for over two years now without any success. We have advertised on the Internet, in Industry Journals and in our own monthly newsletter, all to no avail. We need an experienced design engineer with the ability to formulate methodologies for new equipment and control strategies coming on to the market particularly in the field of Building Energy Consumption that can be programmed into our software. None of the applicants have this experience and we are not in a position to train a young graduate because we do not use the programs ourselves for the design of projects. The situation is fast approaching the point where we may have to close down the business because my partner is now also nearing retirement age.

Murray Mason