

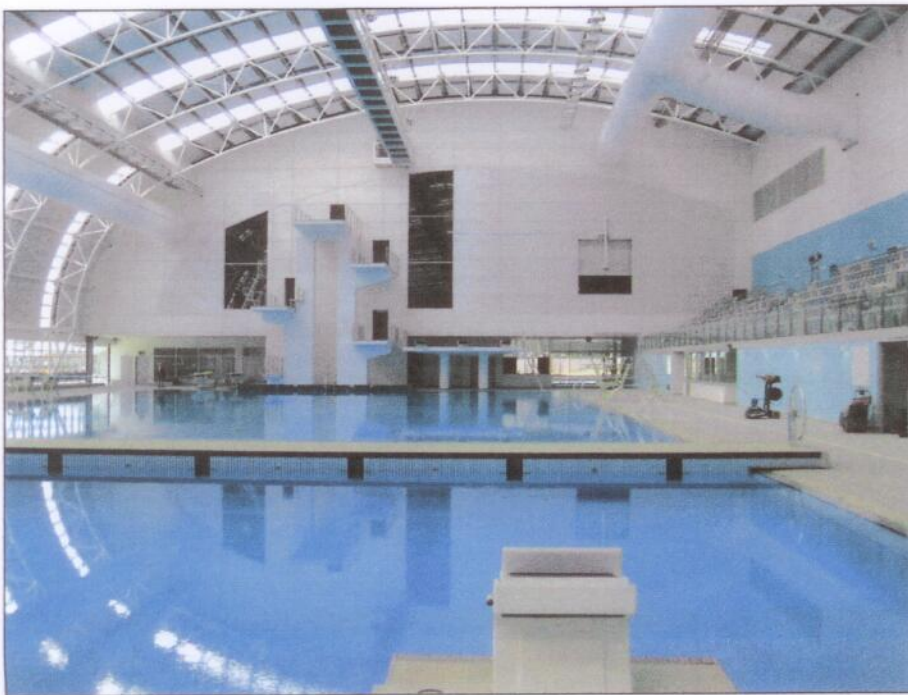


The State Aquatic Centre looking south from Morphett Road, Oaklands Park.

Aqua centre “best in the southern hemisphere”

by John Satterley

Adelaide’s new State Aquatic Centre was scheduled to stage its first event – the national age championships on April 18 before it opens to the public. Two world championships events (life saving and junior diving) are already booked for 2012.



ADELAIDE-BASED Candetti Constructions won the design and construct contract worth over \$100m for the SAC, which incorporates community and mental health facilities linked to regional transport networks through a dedicated pedestrian plaza.

The 15m high steel and glass aquatic centre dominates the 26,400m² development site at Oaklands Park in the city’s southwest. The 10-lane competition and dive/water polo pools are oriented to the north, glazing along adjacent Diagonal Road provides arresting views into the pool hall and out from the grandstand location, where up to 4500 spectators can be accommodated.

Amenities include a café, community gym, two water slides, 1000m² of leisure water space for recreation and fitness, and secure parking for 560 cars across six levels. The health care facility has been designed to achieve a five-star Green Star energy efficiency rating, with solar panels providing heated water across the entire site and stormwater harvesting collecting more than one million litres/year for re-use within the building’s services.

Following an inspection tour in mid-February, Swimming SA manager Craig Hobart told the Adelaide Advertiser the centre “is the best in the southern hemisphere” and Candetti executive chairman Alex Candetti said: “The State Aquatic Centre is testament to South Australian expertise and know-how setting new global benchmarks. This is one of the first master-planned, mixed-use, aquatic and health precincts in the nation.”



Artist's impression of the pool hall.



Ten million litres of water fill the FINA regulated competition pools, with Candetti implementing the Myrtha® prefabricated modular pool system (made from stainless steel sourced from Italy) to construct the SAC facility.

The system requires filling only upon the completion of construction works, as opposed to the traditional filling of the pool enclosures for testing during construction. This not only saves water, but also enables construction periods to be minimised due to the elimination of prolonged testing periods.

Careful consideration was also given to the selection of advanced filtration technologies that will save more than one million litres per year over traditional methods. Candetti was responsible for the initial concepts, master planning, approvals, documentation, construction (which began in October 2009) and commissioning.

“Our construction projects continue to expand in complexity and value, with a concentration on mixed-use developments that incorporate a community approach,” says development manager Jarrod Lengs.

Candetti is a family-owned company formed in 1958, employing about 150 full-time staff and thousands more through its construction projects nationally. The Candetti ethos is “Global knowledge, local benefit”.

Candetti accreditations include ISO4801 for OH&S; ISO9001 for quality management; ISO14001 for environmental management; and Federal Safety Accreditation, the highest construction certification in Australia. Lengs says two SA councils are working with Candetti under a development agreement to assess the viability of an aquatic centre and mixed-use precinct for the Fleurieu Peninsula.


“We put great value on collaboration,” he says. “We believe that getting the right project partners involved early is a key initiative that ultimately results in the successful implementation of benchmarked standards from project like the SAC.

“The real challenge will be in getting companies to understand the benefits of allowing Candetti to manage the entire development process rather than just being the builder. “This will enable a better commercial outcome and more effective risk management than traditional procurement methods.”

Lengs says clients are demanding more complex buildings, with sophisticated security and climate control systems now becoming the norm in private and public facilities as clients embrace sustainable development technologies. The award-winning Building V research

laboratory at the University of South Australia’s Mawson Lakes campus is a recent example.


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