

Auto to automation a big shift for Tonsley

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NEW-AGE MANUFACTURING: Justin Kahl at SAGE's new Tonsley facility. Picture: TAIT SCHMAAL

A SLICE of its history will remain at the heart of SAGE Automation's push to embrace new-age manufacturing, as it moves into a new hi-tech facility at Tonsley.

The privately-owned entity with a turnover of \$72 million and about 270 global staff now has a new home in the Tonsley precinct – the former manufacturing site of Mitsubishi.

"SAGE Automation shares a rich history with the Tonsley site . . . where we delivered a number of projects," regional general manager Justin Kahl said.

"We are thrilled to be starting this next phase in our history at Tonsley. It has been developed to be a hub for those driving the industrial future of SA, including high-value manufacturing," he said.

It's also a personal milestone for Mr Kahl, one of the group's earliest employees who started as an apprentice with the business, which was previously at Melrose Park.

The new custom-built facility will house 120 SAGE staff, the head office, national manufacturing facility and the group's three brands – SAGE Automation; internet of things and big data consultancy business Nukon; and NSAG a joint venture with Spanish defence shipbuilder Navantia.

SAGE Automation provides industrial automation and control services and was founded in 1994 by managing director Andrew Downs in his family's backyard shed.

It is now Australia's largest independent industrial control system integrator with 10 offices nationally and three in India. The Tonsley move has enabled SAGE to transform its facility for advanced manufacturing, achieving Industry 4.0 classification through use of improved automation, machine-to-machine and human-to-machine communication, technological improvements and digitalisation.

SAGE Automation's 3100sq m footprint makes it one of the largest facilities in what was previously the Main Assembly Building at Tonsley.