

New centre just the start of growth surge

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MyModular managing director Mark Fahey (left) and chairman Andrew Downs. Picture: Roy VanDerVegt

ELECTRICAL products maker MyModular has unveiled a new state-of-the-art manufacturing centre in Lonsdale as it ramps up plans for a major expansion.

Marking its 10th year of sales in the Australian market, the company plans to start selling into New Zealand in the next 12 months, while its local workforce of 26 staff is expected to double by 2025.

By pre-wiring switchboards and other electrical devices off-site, the company's "plug and play" modular products slash the time, labour and equipment needed for electrical installations on major construction sites.

Founder and managing director Mark Fahey, an electrician by trade, said the products could deliver on-site time savings of more than 50 per cent.

With the business growing by an average of 33 per cent each year over the past five years, Mr Fahey said a larger facility was needed to support the company's growth.

"The solution is all prefabricated so when it gets to site it's almost like Lego – it all plugs together rather than having to do terminations and creating bespoke solutions on-site," he said. "Now that we're expanding our

manufacturing capability and capacity we needed a bigger space and we needed something that had a clean room and gave us the ability to scale.

“Part of that will include increasing our capability in manufacturing and our capacity. Another part will be increasing our workforce – in the next five years we’re going to double our workforce.”

As part of a “passion for social responsibility and diversity” Mr Fahey has set a 10 per cent employment target for NTPs, or “non-typical persons”. They include people with a disability or other challenge that makes it difficult to secure employment.

MyModular is owned by Mr Fahey and a group of shareholders including the company’s chairman, SAGE Group founder and executive director Andrew Downs. Through relationships with major electrical contractors including Stowe, Fredon, Nilsen and Star Group, the company’s products have been used in major health, apartment and commercial construction projects across the country.

Current projects include the Quay Quarter Tower in Sydney, the Queen’s Wharf project in Brisbane and the Osborne North Development Project at the Osborne shipyards in Adelaide.

Mr Fahey said a decision in 2015 to return manufacturing of the company’s products from Singapore to Adelaide had helped the company navigate through Covid-19.

“I’ve always believed that for what we do manufacturing needs to be close to where we’re actually selling the product – it allows us to create and deliver bespoke solutions within days rather than weeks or months,” he said.

“That’s been an advantage for us but there have been challenges in the supply chain

– getting raw materials from overseas or locally is getting very difficult.

“There’s a shortage at the moment of semiconductors – that does have an effect on us because nobody makes those in Australia.”

Mr Fahey said innovation was a key part of the company’s growth plans, including ongoing collaborations with local universities, and plans to develop a “digital thread” with global applications.