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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Elizabeth Paparo
Marketing Communications Lead
+61 2 9774 7038
epaparo@heatcraft.com.au

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HEATCRAFT SUPPORTS WORLDSKILLS GLOBAL SKILLS CHALLENGE

WorldSkills Australia Media Release

Pie Creek Refrigeration and Air Conditioning professional, Patrick Brennan, is one of nineteen young Australians who have won the right to compete at the Global Skills Challenge following his success at the 2018 WorldSkills National Championships.

Patrick and his Australian team mates will take on international competitors from 16 countries including the United Kingdom, China, Russia and Brazil in 24 skills competitions across the 4-day event.

The Global Skills Challenge is the largest international skills competition taking place in Australia this year. Held in Melbourne (10 – 14 April), the competition will be staged in conjunction with the Victorian Skills Commissioner and WorldSkills Australia in several Victorian TAFE campuses.

20-year-old Patrick, who is employed by Tony Stephens Refrigeration and Air Conditioning and is also a student at QLD TAFE, won a gold medal in the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning category at the 2018 WorldSkills Australia National Championships. Patrick's win secured his place in the WorldSkills Australia training team, and he is hoping that the last seven months of training has set him up for success at the Global Skills Challenge, which will be the final stage for selection in his bid to become a Skillaroo; an elite team of young Australian apprentices and trainees who will represent Australia at the WorldSkills International Championships to be held in Kazan, Russia in August.

Patrick is excited about the Global Skills Challenge and potentially representing his country at the WorldSkills International Competition.

“Representing Australia in anything is a great honour and would be the highlight of my life,” he said.

“My training journey so far has greatly improved my skills and has made me more confident in my trade as well as in public speaking. My training expert Carl Balke is always pushing me to be better and finding new things to challenge me.



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"I love my skill because it involves a lot of problem solving; I'm always up for a challenge," he continued.

On behalf of Heatcraft, the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning gold category partner, Brett Hedge, sales and marketing manager, extended his support.

"Heatcraft wishes Patrick all the best in his quest to become a Skillaroo. The WorldSkills Australia Global Skills Challenge is not only an excellent opportunity for all the competitors to test their skills against the other competing countries, but also allows us to unite and celebrate the young talent that we have in Australia".

WorldSkills Australia CEO, Brett Judd said, "The young Australian's competing are the nation's top up and coming skill and trade specialists. They are supported by some of our country's best trades and skill experts who act as their trainers and mentors. They have been training since September last year, and all of them are vying for a spot on the Skillaroo team, and their chance to represent Australia in Russia this August.

"Australia is regarded as a high performing Vocational Education Nation, and we are currently 10th on the WorldSkills rankings after the 2017 International Championships.

"Countries taking part in the Global Skills Challenge, many of whom are important Australian trade partners including China, United Kingdom, Korea, Japan and India, are eager to see the Victorian TAFE facilities while they measure their performance against the Australian team before the world championships in August," continues Mr Judd.

5 Days 16 Countries 24 Skills 5 Campuses

WorldSkills Australia Presents

Global Skills Challenge

#GSC19

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About Heatcraft:

Heatcraft is your leading manufacturing and wholesale distribution business servicing the needs of the HVAC & Refrigeration industry across Australia. Heatcraft has a strong local heritage and presence while being supported globally by our parent company Beijer Ref AB.



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Our business offers a broad and complete range of Refrigeration & HVAC Equipment, Refrigerant and Parts and our customers are supported by a national branch wholesale network and comprehensive technical expertise. We have a national and international network of account managers and field engineers dedicated to help drive our customers' businesses.

Heatcraft is committed to being your HVAC&R Business Partner.

About WorldSkills Australia

WorldSkills Australia is a social enterprise that passionately believes that skills drive your future and Australia's prosperity. Since 1981 we have been the leading voice for skills excellence in vocational, technological and service-oriented careers in Australia and have raised the awareness of hundreds of thousands of young Australians, as well as their parents, industry and employers that our nation's future depends on an effective skills training system. For more information visit www.worldskills.org.au

About Global Skills Challenge

2019 Global Skills Challenge will be the biggest international skills excellence event to be held in Australia in 2019 with 500 competitors, from 16 different countries taking part in 24 different skills competitions. The four-day competition will be hosted in several Victorian TAFE Institutes including: Holmesglen Institute, Kangan Institute and RMIT University. The championship will simulate International competition conditions. The event is the final training exercise for the WorldSkills Australian Skills Squad before the Skillaroo selection, the team that will go on to represent Australia at the WorldSkills International Championship.

About 45th WorldSkills International Competition

The 45th WorldSkills Competition – the leading international event of 2019 in Russia – will bring together more than 1,600 young professionals representing over 60 countries and regions who will compete in 56 skills. It will take place in Kazan, Russia on 22-27 August 2019. It is expected that more than 250,000 spectators will attend the Competition and associated events.