

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

Electrical Connection has polled the industry on which brands it prefers to install. Now, the results are in. **Paul Skelton** reports.



Voting in the second annual Electrical Connection Most Popular Awards has closed and the results have been counted. Perhaps unsurprisingly, a few companies have dominated.

Clipsal by Schneider Electric, once again, cleaned up winning 13 categories. In total, Schneider Electric (including its subsidiaries) took out 18 of the categories.

Perhaps the biggest mover this year, though, was Voltex, which claimed six titles as well as being voted Most Popular Supplier. This is a large jump forward from winning no categories in 2017. In fact, last year the company's best

result was two third places – Industrial-grade switches and GPOs, and Data cable.

To the companies that didn't win, these awards are a popularity contest – it doesn't mean you have a bad product. But, the results should give you an idea of what your competition is doing well and it may be worth investigating.

In all, 514 electricians voted in this year's competition. On behalf of Electrical Connection, I would like to congratulate all of the companies who won a category or two.

Good luck next year!

ACCESSORIES

SWITCHES AND GPOS	Clipsal by Schneider Electric
INDUSTRIAL-GRADE SWITCHES AND GPOS	Clipsal by Schneider Electric
DIMMER	Clipsal by Schneider Electric
USB POWER POINTS	HPM Legrand
SMOKE DETECTORS	Clipsal by Schneider Electric

COMPONENTS

RCD	Hager
RCBO	Hager
SWITCHGEAR	Voltex
PUSH BUTTONS	Schneider Electric
VSD	Schneider Electric

LIGHTING

LED DOWNLIGHTS	Lumex Lighting
LIGHTING CONTROL	Clipsal by Schneider Electric
EMERGENCY / EXIT LIGHTING	Legrand
HIGH-BAY LIGHTING	Voltex
BATHROOM HEAT LAMPS	IXL Appliances
STREET / PUBLIC LIGHTING	Philips Lighting
BATTENS	Voltex
MOTION SENSORS	Clipsal by Schneider Electric

HVAC

SPLIT SYSTEM	Mitsubishi
CEILING FANS	Clipsal by Schneider Electric
VENTILATION / EXHAUST FANS	Voltex

POWER

POWER CABLE	Olex
ENERGY METERING	Schneider Electric
ENERGY MONITORING / MANAGEMENT	Clipsal by Schneider Electric
ENCLOSURES / CABINETS	B&R Enclosures
SURGE PROTECTION	Voltex
UPS	APC by Schneider Electric

SOLAR

SOLAR PANELS	LG
INVERTERS	Schneider Electric
DC ISO LATORS	NHP
RESIDENTIAL ENERGY STORAGE	Tesla

HOME AUTOMATION

CONTROL SYSTEM	Clipsal by Schneider Electric
DOOR ENTRY SYSTEM / INTERCOM	Legrand

DATA

DATA CABLE	Clipsal by Schneider Electric
PATCH CORDS / PATCH LEADS	Clipsal by Schneider Electric
CONNECTORS	Voltex
RACKS	B&R Enclosures
PATCH PANEL	Clipsal by Schneider Electric
ANTENNA	Matchmaster
CABLE TRAY	UniStrut
CONDUIT	Clipsal by Schneider Electric
TEST EQUIPMENT	Fluke Networks

INDUSTRY

MOST INFLUENTIAL PERSON



The 2018 'Golden Paul' Award – aka the 'Most Influential Person' Award – has gone to industry stalwart, Clipsal standardisation manager, EL-001 chair and *Electrical Connection* contributor Gary Busbridge.



Gary has worked for Clipsal for 41 years, most recently as the standardisation manager. Since 1997, he has also been involved with Standards Australia and has held memberships in several standards committees, including EL-001, which is responsible for the Wiring Rules.

Over the past five years, Gary has played a pivotal role in the redevelopment of the Wiring Rules [AS/NZS 3000], which at the time of print is pending an imminent release.

Gary, who can often be found assisting his industry colleagues in his personal time, is a wealth of knowledge on everything from safety and standards to everything else that is happening in the industry. As part of his role at Clipsal, he is often turning up in different corners of the country, talking locals through their problems and finding solutions.

Congratulations Gary! We hope you enjoy staring at Paul's face every day, knowing that you are as influential as the great man himself...

INDUSTRY

MOST POPULAR WHOLESALER



For the second year in a row CNW Electrical Wholesale, which was established in Queensland in 1952, has won *Electrical Connection's* Most Popular Wholesaler award. The company is 100% Australian-owned and stocks an extensive range of products in over 50 locations around the country. CNW also has partners all over the world, including joint ventures with international companies.



INDUSTRY

MOST POPULAR SUPPLIER



Voltex Electrical Accessories has shined in this year's Most Popular awards, winning six Most Popular awards, as well as Most Popular Supplier for 2018. Established in 2001, Voltex has achieved rapid and consistent growth by streamlining its supply chain and removing as many layers and expenses as possible out of distribution.



ACCESSORIES

SWITCHES AND GPOS

42.9%

Clipsal by
Schneider
Electric

Clipsal by Schneider Electric lost a bit of ground in this category compared to last year but still received nearly half the votes to take out the Most Popular award for switches and GPOs. Meanwhile, Voltex and Legrand jumped up to second and third from fourth and fifth respectively.

30.5%

Voltex

14.9%

Legrand

>4th HPM 12.9%
>5th Lumex 6.4%
>6th Trader 5.8%
>7th Hager 5.1%

ACCESSORIES

USB POWER POINTS

29.8%

HPM Legrand

The only change in this category compared to last year is Legrand moving down to fourth from third and Voltex moving from fourth to third. HPM Legrand and Clipsal by Schneider Electric came in first and second again, although it was a closer result this year.

22.1%

Clipsal by
Schneider Electric

15.8%

Voltex

>4th Legrand 14.6%
>5th Trader 12%
>6th Hager 5.7%

ACCESSORIES

INDUSTRIAL-GRADE SWITCHES AND GPOS

35.4%

Clipsal by
Schneider
Electric

NHP dropped down to fifth from first place last year, with Clipsal by Schneider Electric winning a clear majority in the industrial-grade switches and GPOs category. Hager is a new entrant this year.

28.5%

Voltex

17.7%

ipd

>4th Legrand 13.3%
>5th NHP 12.0%
>6th Trader 3.2%
>7th Hager 2.4%

ACCESSORIES

SMOKE DETECTORS

28.7%

Clipsal by
Schneider
Electric

In a close finish, Clipsal by Schneider Electric took out the most popular smoke detectors category, only 1.5% ahead of Brooks, which moved from third to second. This category also had a new entrant, Nest in Google subsidiary.

27.2%

Brooks

20.2%

Legrand

>4th PSA Products 12.6%
>5th Nest 4.9%
>6th First Alert 4.2%
>7th Fire Sentry 2.1%

ACCESSORIES

DIMMER

24.6%

Clipsal by
Schneider
Electric

Clipsal by Schneider Electric had some competition from HPM and Voltex this year, making it a closer contest than last year. Legrand jumped up from seventh to fifth, while Trader is a new entrant.

19.4%

HPM

18.3%

Voltex

>4th Lumex 12.0%
>5th Legrand 10.3%
>6th Diginet 9.1%
>7th Trader 6.3%

HOME AUTOMATION

CONTROL SYSTEM

35.4%

Clipsal by
Schneider
Electric

The top three in this category were the same as last year, although only Clipsal by Schneider Electric increased its percentage. Control4 is a new entrant and should provide more competition next year.

16.6%

Legrand

12.5%

Philips
Dynalite

>4th Hager 8.3%
>4th Push by Schneider
Electric 8.3%
>6th ABB 7.3%
>6th Control4 7.3%

HOME AUTOMATION

DOOR ENTRY SYSTEM / INTERCOM

29.2%

Legrand

In a surprise result, new entrant Legrand took out the category by 12.5%. It was a close race for second, with Aiphone beating out Panasonic by only 0.7%. These two also faced tough competition from Ness and another new entrant, Bticino.

16.7%

Aiphone

16.0%

Panasonic

>4th Ness 14.6%
>5th Bticino 13.5%
>6th ABB 8.3%
>7th Control4 6.3%



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SOLAR

SOLAR PANELS

There have been a couple of changes in the solar panels category this year, with LG moving from second to first, SunTech dropping from first to second and Trina jumping up from sixth to third.

32.5%

LG

26.5%

SunTech

12.0%

Trina

>4th SunPower 9.6%
>5th Q Cells 8.4%
>6th OPAL 6.0%
>7th Altronics 4.8%

SOLAR

INVERTERS

Schneider Electric has knocked SMA off the top in the inverters category, with SMA falling to fourth this year. ABB also improved its performance, gaining 12.5% to move into third, while LG moved from fourth to second.

31.1%

Schneider Electric

16.7%

LG

15.6%

ABB

>4th SMA 14.5%
>5th Fronius 10.0%
>6th NHP 7.8%
>7th Mpower 4.4%

SOLAR

DC ISOLATORS

NHP continued its winning streak in the DC isolators category this year, while two new entrants, Schneider Electric and ipd, took out second and third.

28.2%

NHP

26.2%

Schneider Electric

19.4%

ipd

>4th ABB 13.6%
>5th Lumex 8.7%
>6th Noark 6.8%

SOLAR

RESIDENTIAL ENERGY STORAGE

It's hard to beat Tesla in this category given its widespread popularity with consumers so it took out the award for the second year in a row. LG gained some ground though and SMA in third was 1.4% higher than the second place winner last year.

44.5%

Tesla

20.5%

LG

15.7%

SMA

>4th ABB 9.6%
>5th Fronius 8.4%
>6th Redflow 6.0%
>7th Magellan 4.8%

HVAC

SPLIT SYSTEM

Mitsubishi and Fujitsu swapped places this year, with Mitsubishi taking out the Most Popular award for split systems. Daikin remained in second place and Samsung is a new entrant.

34.5%

Mitsubishi

30.0%

Daikin

20.0%

Fujitsu

>4th Panasonic 14.5%
>5th Samsung 7.3%
>6th LG 6.3%
>7th Toshiba 4.5%

HVAC

CEILING FANS

There wasn't a lot of change in this category. Clipsal by Schneider Electric and Big Ass Fans stayed in first and second, with both gaining percentages compared to last year. However, Mercator jumped up to third, swapping places with Hunter Pacific.

34.5%

Clipsal by Schneider Electric

20.7%

Big Ass Fans

18.1%

Mercator

>4th Hunter Pacific 13.8%
>5th Martec 12.9%
>6th Brilliant Lighting 10.3%
>7th Ventair 8.6%

HVAC

VENTILATION / EXHAUST FANS

The top three in this category saw a change up this year, with Voltex and Clipsal by Schneider Electric moving into the top two positions as new entrants. This pushed last year's second and third, HPM and IXL, to third and fourth respectively.

29.5%

Voltex

28.0%

Clipsal by Schneider Electric

19.7%

HPM

>4th IXL Appliances 14.4%
>5th Fantech 12.9%
>6th Ventair 10.6%
>7th Arlec 3.8%



Staccato series LED Lighting

Delta's Staccato series is industrial leading LED High/Low bay luminaire that can directly replace HID fixtures up to 750W. The series models have wide range of output lumen (13000lm ~ 30000lm) and support universal mains (120-277Vac). With the integration of different optics and mounting platform, it is qualified to meet severe industrial lighting requirements. And also suitable for diverse lighting applications.



Features

- Environmentally robust design (IP66, 10KV surge, IK10+ and vibration)
- L70 > 100,000hours and dimming control (0-10V, DALI protocol)
- Excellent optics design for high spacing criteria (~1.5)
- 60+°C Ta operation
- Multi-certificates (UL (DLC), CE, TISI, RCM (VEET, IPARTs), D-rating, WEEE, ENEC, CCC, BSMI)
- Low Glare (UGR < 21)

Applications



Factory



Warehouse



Big Box Retailer



Gymnasium

IP66

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LIGHTING

LED DOWNLIGHT

21.0%

Lumex

This year, both Lumex and Voltex beat out Clipsal by Schneider Electric, which fell down to third. This is the second consecutive win in the LED downlight category for Lumex. The company is hard to beat thanks to its comprehensive range across residential, commercial and industrial market sectors.

17.6%

Voltex

12.8%

Clipsal by
Schneider Electric

>4th SAL 8.7%
>4th HPM 8.7%
>6th Phillips Lighting 8.1%
>7th Atom Lighting 7.4%

LIGHTING

LIGHTING CONTROL

37.0%

Clipsal by
Schneider
Electric

Once again Clipsal by Schneider Electric took out the most popular lighting control category by a nearly 20% margin. The playing field is starting to even out though and there were two new entrants in the category this year, SAL and HPM.

17.3%

Legrand

10.2%

Lumex

>4th Diginet 8.6%
>4th SAL 8.6%
>6th Dialight 7.0%
>6th HPM 7.0%

LIGHTING

EMERGENCY / EXIT LIGHTING

22.6%

Legrand

After a number of new product launches this year, Legrand has taken the win in the emergency/exit lighting category, although it did face tough competition from last year's winner Clevertronics. New entrant Voltex jumped in at third, while another new entrant, Stanilite, came in equal fourth with Clipsal by Schneider Electric.

20.4%

Clevertronics

15.3%

Voltex

>4th Clipsal by Schneider Electric 13.9%
>4th Stanilite 13.9%
>6th Ektor 8.2%
>7th Pierlite 8.0%

LIGHTING

BATHROOM HEAT LAMPS

30.8%

IXL
Appliances

IXL Appliances had its second consecutive win in this category, though Clipsal by Schneider Electric did close the gap. The margin between the top four was close this year, with Voltex taking out third and bumping HPM down to fourth.

24.2%

Clipsal by
Schneider Electric

23.5%

Voltex

>4th HPM 22.0%
>5th Ventair 4.4%
>6th Mercator 2.9%
>7th Heller 2.2%

LIGHTING

STREET / PUBLIC LIGHTING

24.0%

Philips
Lighting

The same three companies as last year made up the top three in the street/public lighting category, although Pierlite beat out Sylvania for second.

22.2%

Pierlite

18.5%

Sylvania

>4th Legrand 12.9%
>5th Thorn 12.0%
>5th GE 12.0%
>7th Lumex 10.1%

LIGHTING

HIGH-BAY LIGHTING

29.5%

Voltex

There are two new entrants in the high-bay lighting category, Voltex, which took out the Most Popular award, and Legrand, which came in third. Clipsal by Schneider Electric remained in the top three, moving up to second from third last year.

17.9%

Clipsal by
Schneider
Electric

12.2%

Legrand

>4th Lumex 9.3%
>4th Pierlite 9.3%
>6th Phillips Lighting 8.6%
>7th SAL 5.7%

LIGHTING

BATTENS

29.6%

Voltex

Voltex achieved a huge improvement over its performance last year, jumping up from sixth to take out the award for battens this year. Pierlite came in second again, while HPM took out third and new entrant Legrand came in a close fourth.

22.6%

Pierlite

11.7%

HPM

>4th Legrand 10.9%
>5th Thorn 8.6%
>6th Haneco 7.8%
>6th Lumex 7.8%

LIGHTING / POWER

LIGHTING

MOTION SENSORS

40.1%

Clipsal by
Schneider
Electric

Clipsal by Schneider Electric has claimed this category with a healthy margin, after coming in a disappointing sixth position in 2017. Last year's victor, HPM, has slipped to third while Voltex has jumped from fourth to second.

17.6%

Voltex

12.8%

HPM

>4th Legrand 13.1%
>5th Lumex 8.0%
>6th Hager 5.1%
>7th Atom Lighting 1.4%

POWER

POWER CABLE

47.9%

Olex

Two of the founding members of the Australian Cablemakers Association, Olex and Prysmian, once again dominated this category, with the number of votes for first and second almost exactly the same as last year.

45.5%

Prysmian

15.7%

Electra

>4th Advance 5.7%
>4th APEC 5.7%
>6th Tycab 4.1%
>7th Altronics 2.4%

POWER

ENCLOSURES / CABINETS

31.0%

B&R
Enclosures

This is another category where Voltex saw a huge improvement from last year, climbing from seventh to second to provide competition to second-time winner B&R Enclosures.

26.9%

Voltex

16.5%

Clipsal by
Schneider
Electric

>4th ipd 15.8%
>5th Hager 13.7%
>6th Legrand 11.7%
>7th NHP 6.2%

POWER

ENERGY METERING

37.7%

Schneider
Electric

Schneider Electric once again took out the most popular energy metering category, while new entrant ipd came in second. Other new entrants include Power Parameters and Siemens.

21.9%

ipd

20.1%

NHP

>4th Legrand 16.6%
>5th Siemens 7.8%
>6th ABB 4.3%
>7th Power Parameters 2.6%

POWER

ENERGY MONITORING / MANAGEMENT

22.4%

Clipsal by
Schneider
Electric

It was a close call for Most Popular energy monitoring/management this year, with Clipsal by Schneider Electric beating out ipd by only 2.3%. It was a close race for third between Schneider Electric and Legrand as well.

20.1%

ipd

18.9%

Schneider
Electric

>4th Legrand 17.2%
>5th NHP 16.3%
>6th Siemens 10.3%
>7th KNX 6.9%

POWER

SURGE PROTECTION

24.6%

Voltex

Voltex has been on a winning streak in the 2018 Most Popular Awards, taking out Most Popular surge protection and bumping last year's winner, Schneider Electric, to second. ipd rounded out the top three, while Legrand again came in fourth.

22.3%

Schneider
Electric

16.4%

ipd

>4th Legrand 11.9%
>5th Hager 11.1%
>6th NHP 9.7%
>7th Dehn & Sohne 8.2%

POWER

UPS

24.7%

APC by
Schneider
Electric

The top three brands in the UPS category remain unchanged from last year, although Schneider Electric, which is the parent company of winner APC by Schneider Electric, did close the gap. Eaton also increased its percentage of votes and new entrant GE came fourth.

23.8%

Schneider
Electric

19.0%

Eaton

>4th GE 14.2%
>5th Siemens 13.3%
>6th ABB 10.4%
>7th PowerShield 6.6%

COMPONENTS

RCD

It was a close competition in the RCD components category this year, with only 4.6% separating Hager in first and Clipsal by Schneider Electric in third.

29.0%

Hager

26.4%

Voltex

24.4%

Clipsal by
Schneider
Electric

>4th ipd 14.1%
>5th Legrand 12.9%
>5th NHP 12.9%
>7th GE 7.7%

COMPONENTS

RCBO

Hager won most popular RCBO for the second year, while Voltex moved from fourth to second. Clipsal by Schneider Electric and ipd are both new entrants and came third and fourth respectively.

28.6%

Hager

27.2%

Voltex

25.9%

Clipsal by
Schneider
Electric

>4th ipd 14.2%
>5th Legrand 11.7%
>6th NHP 10.3%
>7th ABB 8.4%

COMPONENTS

SWITCHGEAR

The top three most popular brands in the switchgear category changed this year and Voltex was the clear favourite despite coming in fifth last year. Clipsal by Schneider Electric also saw a big improvement, moving from seventh to second in 2018.

28.4%

Voltex

21.3%

Clipsal by
Schneider
Electric

15.3%

ipd

>4th Hager 14.7%
>5th NHP 14.0%
>6th Legrand 12.0%
>7th ABB 9.3%

COMPONENTS

PUSH BUTTONS

Schneider Electric increased its lead as the Most Popular push buttons this year, with a 9.4% win over Voltex. New entrant ipd was a close third.

28.9%

Schneider
Electric

19.5%

Voltex

18.1%

ipd

>4th Legrand 17.3%
>5th NHP 11.6%
>6th ABB 9.4%
>7th Eaton 2.9%

COMPONENTS

VSD

Schneider Electric won almost half the votes in the VSD category, although global giant ABB still managed to gain 30.9% of the vote. These two are clearly the most popular suppliers of variable speed drives.

46.3%

Schneider
Electric

30.9%

ABB

19.0%

NHP

>4th Fantech 9.0%
>5th Eaton 5.5%

DATA

DATA CABLE

Last year's winner and runner-up, Olex and Prymian dropped to third and fourth this year. Meanwhile, Voltex moved from third to second and new entrant Clipsal by Schneider Electric was voted the Most Popular data cable.

26.8%

Clipsal by
Schneider
Electric

25.2%

Voltex

13.8%

Olex

>4th Prymian 13.0%
>4th Legrand 13.0%
>6th Panduit 8.9%
>7th Garland 5.6%

DATA

PATCH CORDS / PATCH LEADS

Clipsal by Schneider Electric took out its second Most Popular award in the patch cords/patch leads category, while second and third were taken out by new entrants Voltex and Cabac.

27.3%

Clipsal by
Schneider
Electric

21.3%

Voltex

20.5%

Cabac

>4th Legrand 14.5%
>5th Matchmaster 11.1%
>6th Panduit 8.5%
>7th 4Cabling 5.9%

DATA

DATA

PATCH PANEL

35.6%

Clipsal by
Schneider
Electric

Clipsal by Schneider Electric increased its percentage of votes to once again easily win the Most Popular award in the patch panel category. There was tough competition for second and third though, with only 0.7% separating Cabac and Legrand.

20.8%

Cabac

20.1%

Legrand

>4th Panduit 9.9%
>5th Commscope 8.9%
>6th Legrand 5.9%
>7th Belden 4.9%

DATA

CABLE TRAY

34.6%

UniStrut

UniStrut beat out last year's winner EzyStrut to win Most Popular cable tray and these two were clearly the two favourites. Burndy, which was a new entrant, and Cablofil came in at third and fourth, with only 1.3% separating them.

26.5%

EzyStrut

16.3%

Burndy

>4th Cablofil 15.0%
>5th B&R Enclosures 13.3%
>6th Cableaway 5.1%
>6th Kounis 5.1%

DATA

TEST EQUIPMENT

60.5%

Fluke Network

Fluke Network has continued its domination of the test equipment category, gaining 27.9% more votes than Kyoritsu in second. However, Kyoritsu did increase its votes by around 10% compared to last year and was well ahead of Hioki in third.

32.6%

Kyoritsu

13.4%

Hioki

>4th Cabac 10.5%
>5th Aegis 7.6%
>5th Ideal 7.6%
>5th Megger 7.6%

DATA

CONNECTORS

39.2%

Voltex

Voltex continued its winning streak in this category, while Legrand has maintained its runner-up position. Panduit dropped from first to third, pushing last year's third place, Commscope, to fourth.

25.2%

Legrand

13.0%

Panduit

>4th Commscope 10.2%
>5th Siemon 8.4%
>6th Altronics 5.6%

DATA

RACKS

24.2%

B&R
Enclosures

B&R Enclosures is proving hard to beat in the enclosures categories, winning its second award. Clipsal by Schneider Electric improved its position compared to last year and Legrand came in third as a new entrant.

20.3%

Clipsal by
Schneider Electric

18.4%

Legrand

>4th APC by Schneider
Electric 16.5%
>5th Rack Technologies
13.5%
>6th Cabac 10.6%
>7th Rittal 9.7%

DATA

ANTENNA

54.8%

Matchmaster

It was only a two-horse race in the antenna category between Matchmaster, which once again took out the Most Popular award, and Hills. These two were miles ahead of third place Kingray, which gained 5.1% of the vote.

46.9%

Hills

5.1%

Kingray

>4th Crest 4.0%
>5th One For All 3.0%
>6th Triax 2.0%

DATA

CONDUIT

32.4%

Clipsal by
Schneider
Electric

As with last year, there was a clear favourite for Most Popular conduit but it was Clipsal by Schneider Electric this year, with last year's winner, Iplex, dropping to third. Voltex surged from fourth to second, increasing its vote by 12%.

25.2%

Voltex

12.6%

Iplex

>4th Key Plastics 11.7%
>5th Unistrut 10.8%
>6th Pipemakers 9.9%
>7th Flexicon 5.4%