As an exciting initiative, ten innovators from the University of Queensland Power Engineering Research Group joined ten Powerlink engineers for an inspirational address by Andrew Liveris, the Chairman and Chief Executive of Dow Chemicals. As Dow’s CEO for more than a decade, Mr Liveris has led the company’s transformation into an enterprise powered by science, driven by innovation and delivering solutions to the world. He spoke on how Australia can improve its global competitiveness, including consideration of sustainable energy policies and the importance of STEM education to build a knowledge-based economy.

The conversation around the tables between the UQ innovators and Powerlink engineers was equally stimulating, and covered their recent research into innovations to improve Powerlink’s network performance such as transformer failure analysis, new dynamic transmission line rating techniques, new load forecasting and planning models that predict significant challenges ahead with grid loading and energy storage, as well as stability studies of a proposed HVDC interconnector.

These latest work-ready UQ graduates are increasingly being snapped up by industry eager to become leaders like Dow Chemicals and apply their cutting-edge skills to tackling the challenges ahead.