On the 23rd of June a group of approximately 50 young (and young at heart) engineers and scientists left the comfort of the office to participate in a guided tour of the FMC Technologies facilities in Henderson, south of Perth. The tour participants were split into two groups and provided an insight into the operations undertaken at FMC by Ross Hendricks (Account Manager, FMC Technologies) and Chris Nafie (Subsea Services Engineer, FMC Technologies).

The tour commenced inside the workshop, with a brief tour of the FMC offices before heading into the lab to check out the hydraulic fluids testing facilities. From there it was onto the workshop floor, where the group was taken through the process of how the technicians at FMC carefully deconstruct the tools for service, and then meticulously clean each component before reassembling for future use. From there the group moved on to a look at a subsea Christmas tree currently undergoing refurbishment at FMC. This provided a great opportunity for those on the tour to get up close and look inside some of the advanced hardware required to extract well fluids from a reservoir.

Next up were the testing facilities, where we were shown the vigorous checks that different components are subject to prior to being dispatched from the FMC workshop to recommence field service. Finally the groups were taken into the storage yard where we had the chance to view a range of impressive installation and operational hardware recently used on major Western Australian projects, including Christmas trees, topside control panels and FMC’s UCON Universal Connection System used in the connection of pipelines to subsea structures.

Feedback for the site visit was resoundingly positive, and great thanks must go to FMC Technologies and particularly to Ross and Chris for providing the opportunity for the YES! community to visit the workshop and to see some impressive subsea hardware and testing facilities up close.

Keep an eye out for the next YES! site visit scheduled for early September!