



AT A GLANCE

CLIENT: BAULDERSTONE
HORNIBROOK

LOCATION: MELBOURNE

SEMF DESIGNED AND
CONSTRUCTED AN
INNOVATIVE MOVING ROOF
SYSTEM FOR ETIHAD
STADIUM – A TECHNICAL
FEAT THAT INCORPORATED
A SOPHISTICATED LINEAR
CONTROL SYSTEM, USED IN
AUSTRALIA FOR THE FIRST
TIME.



Etihad Stadium (formerly Telstradome) is one of Australia's premier sporting venues. Located in Melbourne's Docklands, the multipurpose facility is home to some of the country's largest sporting and entertainment events and has attracted more than 25 million visitors since opening doors in March 2000. The stadium also owes its iconic status to its distinctive retractable roof – the only one of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere.

SEMF was engaged by Baulderstone Hornibrook to design and construct this moving roof. The brief called for a control system with the capacity to monitor different aspects of roof movement while maintaining high travel speeds and simple user operation. SEMF built the bogies and travelling platforms that allow the roof to open and close and designed a sophisticated control system to monitor and track its movements.

The fact that each roof panel weighed a substantial 12000 tonnes also created significant pressures in terms of design safety. SEMF responded to this challenge by developing a control system that is as operator friendly as it is robust. The process saw SEMF adapt several inventive control methods, including a sophisticated linear control system, never previously used in Australia, along with state-of-the-art hydraulics. SEMF currently oversees the maintenance and ongoing operation of the moving roof system.

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