



Media Statement

Saturday 15 July 2006

Awards night celebrates NT engineering excellence

Last night, the Northern Territory's highly talented engineering innovators and guests joined in a celebration of the Engineers Australia's Northern Division's annual Engineering Excellence Awards, at the highly prestigious awards dinner and night of great entertainment at the Charles Darwin University.

This year the judging panel determined that as two projects excelled against the criteria in different categories, each had to be honoured by receiving the top recognition of the NT's 2006 Engineering Excellence Award.

The winners were the 'Bushlight – Light for Life in the Bush' entered in the category of Engineering for Regional Communities, and the Darwin Liquefied Natural Gas Plant entered in the category of Infrastructure Projects.

Through the Centre for Appropriate Technology's Bushlight – Light for Life in the Bush program, more than 80 remote indigenous communities can now access reliable and affordable electricity. Communities make decisions about their energy-use priorities, and then Bushlight assists with developing energy plans, as well as delivering robust facilities that maximise the options for using renewable energy-based services. The Bushlight program has set new national and international benchmarks for the cost effective, equitable and sustainable provision of energy services to remote communities.

The loading of a ship with liquefied natural gas for Tokyo in February this year from Darwin's LNG Plant brought to reality a complex and highly innovative engineering feat. The achievement by ConocoPhillips, that stretches 500km from the Bayu-Undan offshore facility to Darwin, is another Territory-based contribution to the local and national interest. The Darwin plant features the world's largest above ground LNG storage plant with a storage capacity equivalent to the volume of 150 Olympic sided swimming pools, a 1.35km long jetty, and the highest environmental conservation standards.

Engineers Australia's NT President, Owen Peake, said, "Once again entrants for the NT engineering excellence awards have shown just how it should be done, when NT-sized challenges need equally broad thinking to delivering solutions.

"In the past two years an NT entrant has gone on to take out the main event held for the national awards in Canberra and with the excellence of this year's NT winners we are well placed for the trifecta."

The night also highlighted the achievements of other projects by awarding Highly Commended Awards to the Charles Darwin University's Desert Rose Project that continues to develop applications for motors from electric bicycles and scooters to cars to deliver clean, cheap and sustainable power, and the Bradshaw Field Training Area, 600kms south-east of Darwin, delivered by Macmahon for the Department of Defence. The Bradshaw Field Training Area also won the People's Choice Award after the counting of over 2000 votes from visitors to displays of all projects at the Casuarina Shopping Square.

The Nhulunbuy Waste Stabilisation Ponds project, powered by the Solar Laminar Flow Mixer won the John Wellard Australia New Zealand Solar Energy Society's Sustainability Award. Natural sunlight and innovative technology were brought together by Northern Territory Civil & Drafting Services to significantly improve the effectiveness and sustainability of waste treatment ponds for the township of Nhulunbuy.

The engineering excellence of individuals was also recognised with: Lawrence Stubbs, a lecturer at the Charles Darwin University Mechanical Engineering Department declared the Professional Engineer of the Year; Bob Callaby, the Operations Manger at Darwin Airport, declared the Associate Engineer of the Year; and Douglas Hagan, a project manager on the Bradshaw Field Training Area and currently a project engineer for the Darwin City Waterfront project, declared the Young Professional Engineer of the Year.

Media Contact & Further Information:

Bronwyn Russell, Executive Director, Northern Division – 0414 894 547 / (08) 89814137
brussell@engineersauatralia.org.au / www.engineersaustralia.org.au

John Bright, Media Adviser – Engineers Australia – 0407 234 490

Engineers Australia is the common name of the Institution of Engineers, Australia, with a membership of 80,000.