

Innovative Australian contractors receive recognition



By Keith Hampson, for the CRC for Construction Innovation

A DATABASE of Australia's most innovative contractors has been developed by the BRITE Project of the CRC for Construction Innovation to identify the leaders in our industry

and to promote innovation by listing appropriately qualified potential networking partners.

The National Innovative Contractors Database has been developed in response to calls from the construction industry for a 'yellow pages' of innovative contractors nationally.

The database enables participants in the construction industry to identify and develop relationships with innovative contractors from all over Australia. Such networking was previously difficult, as many construction businesses only had access to local innovative contractors and lacked information about opportunities nationally.

The contractors listed on the National Innovative Contractors Database

have been recognised by the CRC for Construction Innovation for driving innovation.

Only qualifying contractors are listed on the database. To qualify, businesses complete a form asking them questions about their innovation activity. The answers are scored and businesses must pass a hurdle score to qualify for listing on the database.

The score measures the:

- Degree of novelty in technological and organisational innovations
- Impact of innovation on profitability
- Adoption rate of existing advanced technologies and practices
- Importance businesses placed on investing in research and development.

The cut-off score delineates the top quarter of the ranked 383 respondents to the 2004 BRITE survey – the first dedicated large-scale construction innovation survey ever conducted in Australia. Only about 25 per cent of all construction contractors in Australia would qualify for listing on the database.

The National Innovative Contractors Database can be viewed and downloaded at www.brite.crcii.info. The database will also be distributed as part of a national seminar tour in 2007.

The BRITE project is led by Dr Karen Manley. To apply for registration on the database, contact Lindy Spindler, BRITE Project, CRC for Construction Innovation, phone (07) 3864 9146 or email l.spindler@qut.edu.au