

Weather Researchers hit CBD Streets

By Dr Keith Hampson
Chief Executive Officer
CRC for *Construction Innovation*

Late in January a team of researchers took to the streets of Brisbane's CBD to begin a 12 month weather research study to help design professionals across Australia make our future cities more liveable.

A vitally important point considering the effects climate change and global warming are having on our environment.

The research, conducted by *Construction Innovation* partners Queensland Department of Public Works, Brisbane City Council, Queensland University of Technology (QUT) and the CSIRO, will record air temperature, solar radiation, humidity, rainfall and airflow (including its direction) in one city block for a 12 month period.

Two data recorders will be used. One fixed to the roof of a building to record the weather over the CBD, while a mobile data recording cart will record the microclimate at street level.

In Brisbane - along with many of our other cities - there is no accurate CBD-specific weather data for design professionals to use to assess the microclimatic impacts and options for proposed building projects in heavily built-up areas.

If we want to deliver environmentally responsible or bio-climatic buildings, guarantee a building's right to specified light, ventilation and other microclimatic conditions, this research is critical.

The end result of the research will be a three-dimensional model of Brisbane CBD that architects, town planners and building application assessment teams from Brisbane City Council can use to assess the effects a new project will have on other existing buildings and users.

The research results will also be used in future growth management strategies for the city.

Without this research, our cities run the risk of creating unusable outdoor areas and rendering indoor climate controls ineffective, which could lead to a remedy that sends energy costs skyrocketing and increases greenhouse gas emissions.

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Construction Innovation is holding its 'Clients Driving Innovation: Moving Ideas into Practice' conference at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on the Gold Coast, Queensland, from 12 to 14 March, 2006.

Australian and international experts will focus particularly on industry case studies where research has led to innovative design, construction and facility management solutions.

Jim Glymph, from Gehry Technologies in the US, will detail how his company uses integrated, digital construction tools and methods to deliver commercial and economic benefits to its customers. Information technology is slowly making inroads into our industry and Gehry Technologies is a world's leader in the field.

John Holland's National Safety Manager, Dean Cipolla, who is leader on our construction site safety culture project, will speak on safety-critical positions within organisations, the critical competencies, skills, attitudes, behaviours and knowledge of staff in these jobs and the tools his team is developing to aid people in these positions.

And Lorenzo Bellicini will detail the lessons learned from traditional and innovative facility management techniques in Italy.

A host of other speakers, including Janet Holmes à Court, Peter Brandon, Keith Futcher and Martin Fischer, will talk on the latest issues, innovations and ideas affecting the industry. It will be a vital two days for our industry and I hope to see you there. For a full rundown of speakers and to register visit the conference website: <http://www.2006conference.crci.info>

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The CRC for *Construction Innovation* brings together 19 industry, government and research partners in a collaboration to find innovative solutions to improve the economic, environmental and social benefit of the design, property, construction and facility management sectors as well as the Australian community. Website: <http://www.constructioninnovation.info>