



Essential construction industry news

Innovation the aim

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THE 2005 BRITE Innovation Case Studies for the building and construction industry were launched in Brisbane yesterday by Queensland deputy premier Anna Bligh.

The BRITE (Building, Research, Innovation, Technology and Environment) case studies, inspired by the success of the Rethinking Construction, Egan Demonstration Projects in Britain, are part of a research project of the Cooperative Research Centre for Construction Innovation at Queensland University of Technology.

The case studies aim to demonstrate how all construction organisations can become more innovative in their design, execution and construction of projects.

They are aimed at increasing the rate and quality of innovation in the building and construction industry, which employs more than 730,000 people in Australia.

Leader of the BRITE project Dr Karen Manley said that the case studies had a significant impact on the construction and building industry culture, creating a can-do attitude toward innovation.

"These new case studies show that both original innovation and adoption of best practice, improve project and business performance," Manley said.

Among BRITE's 2005 case studies are: a new way of dealing with urban stormwater run-off facilities through a more sustainable use of storage gutters and infiltration; installing post-tensioned steel trusses in Telstra Stadium's roof reconfiguration to reduce cost and lost seating revenue; and using recycled tyres to construct an access road over saturated terrain, yielding a 15% reduction in project costs.

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