

## CRC for Construction Innovation calls for innovators

The BRITE Project is a research project of the Cooperative Research Centre for Construction Innovation, based at the Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane. The project's aim is to increase the rate and quality of innovation in the industry. The research team is doing this by widely publishing information on successful innovations, drawn from the **2004 BRITE Innovation Survey** of the building and construction industry and from more detailed case studies. The *BRITE Innovation Survey* identified 82 highly innovative businesses, including 26 that have developed world-first innovations. Six case studies are already available ([www.brite.crcqi.info/case\\_studies/index.htm](http://www.brite.crcqi.info/case_studies/index.htm)), and the team would like to begin work on more.

From the *Innovation Survey* researchers examined the characteristics common to high innovators – drawing out those things they do differently. "This examination of successful innovators is expected to be a valuable resource for the industry. It will help promote more widespread adoption of best practice", said QUT-based Project Leader Dr Karen Manley.

While the Survey uses the behaviours of high innovators to make general recommendations for improving performance, case studies with more detail about particular innovations are also very useful. They can show:

- the practical and economic benefits of innovations
- how organisations seek innovations, and make decisions to adopt them
- the steps followed to successful implementation.
- An innovation can be a new product or a new process that is of economic value. It can be a new or significantly improved:
  - technological innovation (services, materials, products, plant, equipment etc.)
  - organisational innovation (advanced business practices including marketing, human resources, financial systems, strategic planning, collaboration, relationship management, health, safety, environment, etc.).

An innovation can be new to the organisation, new to the country, or new to the world. It can be something already operating in other industries, but not before applied in the building and construction sector.

The BRITE team is now seeking nominations from organisations who would like their innovations to be profiled for industry dissemination. To be eligible, the innovation should have been used on a completed commercial building or construction project. There should be measured benefits from the innovation such as reduced energy costs, building costs, whole-of-life costs, time. The team is particularly interested in the activities of small- to medium-sized businesses, especially in regional areas.

More information can be found at [www.brite.crcqi.info](http://www.brite.crcqi.info)

To register your interest, send an email to [k.manley@qut.edu.au](mailto:k.manley@qut.edu.au), or phone Dr Karen Manley on 13864 1762 before March 31<sup>st</sup> 2005