

# Celebrating a year of success



By Dr Keith Hampson, CEO  
of the CRC for Construction  
Innovation

As the year draws to a close, I would like to take the opportunity to reflect on some key achievements the CRC for Construction Innovation has delivered over the past 12 months.

Our links with Western Australia were significantly strengthened when we welcomed the WA Government's Department of Housing and Works and Curtin University of Technology as core partners in to our applied research and education program. This brings to 21 the number of industry, government and research partners shaping the directions of Construction Innovation and our industry.

In March on the Gold Coast, we held our second Clients Driving Innovation International Conference: Moving Ideas into Practice, which attracted more than 230 people from across 12 countries. The conference program reflected the key relationship that construction delivery teams play in the innovation process – particularly in the project environment that characterises property, design, construction and facility management. Our next conference is scheduled for March 12-14, 2008 and will be themed Benefiting from Innovation.

A Construction Innovation project that developed world-first technology to diagnose and provide solutions to underperforming construction projects won the 2006 Professional Excellence Award for research and development at the Australian Institute of Building national awards. Congratulations to the Project Diagnostics team, led by John Tsoukas at Arup.

Another Construction Innovation software tool, DesignCheck, that provides automated checking of designs against building codes, received a High Commendation Award in the same category. Such awards reflect industry recognition of the outcomes of Construction Innovation's collaborative approach in fostering innovation in the building and construction industry.

A New Framework for Safety in the Construction Industry was launched by the Federal Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Kevin Andrews. The framework aims to bring about a long-term cultural change in the industry to improve occupational health and safety practices. On

average, one person dies each week on Australian construction sites and there are thousands of serious injuries reported each year. The CRC will work with industry to improve these damning statistics. The level of interest in the outcomes of this project, led by Dean Cipolla, group safety manager at John Holland, was such that Construction Innovation has organised additional workshops to be held in Perth on November 27 and Brisbane on December 6 to disseminate the key findings. Copies of the report are available on our website.

Another project that attracted much interest was the Sydney Opera House Facilities Management Exemplar project. This project sought to develop an integrated facilities management solution with broad industry applications, using the Sydney Opera House as a case study. The outcomes of this research were showcased at the Sydney Opera House and in Melbourne recently, and an additional showcase event is being held in Brisbane on November 23.

Seven Construction Innovation-sponsored research scholars undertaking PhD or Masters degrees in key building and construction areas completed their theses this year, bringing the number of scholars we have supported to 23. All our PhD and Masters scholars have industry associate supervisors or direct contact with industry in their research.

Currently five Construction Innovation ICT products are being trialled as prototypes by participants and external parties in the industry: LCADesign, Automatic Estimator, Automatic Scheduler, DesignCheck and Noise Management. These tools have received international acclaim and are the subject of current commercialisation negotiations.

These significant outcomes reflect the skill and dedication of our partners and research project participants. Their success is our success! Our continued collaboration is vital to the future growth of Australia's building and construction industry. ■