

Innovative contractors receive recognition

Thursday, 2 November 2006

THE Queensland-based Building Research Innovation Technology and Environment (BRITE) Project has launched the National Innovative Contractors Database to identify industry leaders and promote construction innovation by providing a register of potential networking partners.

The database of innovative contractors has been developed by the BRITE Project, a research wing of the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Construction Innovation, with the aim of improving the rate and quality of innovation in the Australian building and construction industry.



BRITE Project leader Dr Karen Manley said the database was developed in response to calls from the construction industry for a "yellow pages" of innovative contractors and is intended to provide national recognition.

"It is important for a business to maintain active personal contacts with related organisations driving innovation," Manley said.

She said only qualifying contractors are listed on the database.

"To qualify, businesses answer questions about their innovation activity," she said.

"The answers are scored and businesses must pass a hurdle score to qualify for listing on the database."

Manley said the score measured the degree of novelty in technological and organisational innovations, the impact of innovation on profitability, the adoption rate of existing advanced technologies and practices, and the importance businesses placed on investing in research and development.

The database already has over 80 innovative companies currently registered and will be continually updated with new entrants.

The database is a substantial undertaking of the CRC and is supported by the Civil Contractors Federation, the Master Builders Association and public sector clients.

The National Innovative Contractors Database can be viewed and downloaded at www.brite.crci.info

The database will also be distributed as part of a national seminar tour in 2007.