



MEDIA RELEASE

21st April 2015

The Australian Industry Group (Ai Group) encourages Innovators from Gosford to Coffs Harbour to enter the 2015 “**Australian Technologies Competition**”, which is now open to businesses who have developed technology solutions in:

- mining,
- food and agriculture,
- advanced manufacturing,
- energy,
- the built environment or
- global development sectors.

The annual competition provides recognition, support and exposure for the best regional and national technology companies, with finalists gaining access to business mentors, leading industry groups, government agencies and investors from Australia and across Asia.

For the first time in the competition's history, a Greater Hunter regional program is being offered as a pathway to the prestigious national awards. Regional Finalists in each of the 6 categories will automatically qualify as National Finalists.

Ai Group is indebted to the following member companies and allied organisations for providing financial support:

- Hedweld Engineering,
- Forgacs Engineering,
- Dantia,
- University of Newcastle and
- NSW Trade and Investment.

The Regional Competition will be **launched** at the Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment, Room EF122, University of Newcastle at **2.30pm on Wednesday 29th April.**

Round one entries of the Competition close 19th May 2015 with regional winners announced in August, ahead of the Australian Technologies Showcase and Gala Awards Event on 14th October 2015 in Sydney.

Now in its fifth year, the Competition has identified over \$250 million in project opportunities for Australian small to medium enterprises (SMEs). The Competition attracted over 225 applicants in 2014 and recognised 6 industry winners and an overall Australian winner.

Previous competition winners have included a retrofit commercial air-conditioning technology that saves up to 85% of power costs, manufacture of non-toxic fracking fluid and a low cost, low emission hydrogen production technology.

The competition is supported by over 40 industry associations, professional services firms and investors and has established an extremely strong reputation across industry and government for the success of companies emerging through the program.

Eligible companies:

- must have less than 100 employees and
- own the core Intellectual Property used in their products or services.

Competition information and entry forms are available through the Ai Group Newcastle Office or through the Australian Technology Award website www.austechcomp.com.au .

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