CREATING JOBS THROUGH INNOVATION

Minister for Business and Economic Development, Kon Vatskalis, is calling for the Northern Territory’s top thinkers to nominate for the 2007 Research and Innovation Awards.

Designed to recognise the Northern Territory’s innovators and problem solvers, the Awards honour those that have made a significant contribution to the Northern Territory through research and innovation.

Minister Vatskalis said a great idea or a different approach to an old problem can contribute to new technology and increased knowledge, helping to broaden the Territory’s economic base and create jobs for Territorians.

“The Territory has a lifestyle and economy that is the best in Australia and we need to continue to encourage research and innovation to ensure this remains the case,” Mr Vatskalis said.

The Awards cover five categories;

- Minister for Business and Economic Development’s Innovation Award ($5000 prize)
- Desert Knowledge Research Award ($5000 prize)
- Tropical Knowledge Research Award ($5000 prize)
- Indigenous Innovation Award ($5000 prize)
- New Generation Research and Innovation Award ($2000 prize)

The overall winner will receive the Chief Minister's Award for Research and Innovation.

In 2006, Mark Smith of Syntonic Industries took out this prestigious Award for his rapid tracking antenna.

Mr Smith invested a lot of time and money into the development of his antenna and now holds a patent for his technology in the United States of America.

“Last year’s awards attracted 51 nominations and we hope to attract even more this year,” Mr Vatskalis said.

The awards are funded through the Northern Territory Research and Innovation Fund and supported by AusIndustry and are open to all eligible Territorians.

Nominations close 16 March 2007. Nomination forms are available online at www.research-innovation.nt.gov.au or by calling 8999 5153.

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