



**CLARE MARTIN**  
CHIEF MINISTER

**PAUL HENDERSON**  
MINISTER FOR BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**\*\*EMBARGOED UNTIL 11PM 11 May 2006\*\***

## **RESEARCH & INNOVATION: DRIVING NEW JOBS FOR TERRITORIANS**

A Darwin business owner has been named the Territory's top innovator taking out the Chief Minister's Award at the 2006 NT Research and Innovation Awards.

The Director of research and development company Sytonic Technologies, Mark Smith has developed a new antenna which has great potential for communications in remote areas.

Chief Minister Clare Martin congratulated all the winners of these prestigious awards.

"NT Research and Innovation Awards recognise our most outstanding thinkers and problems solvers," Ms Martin said.

"Mark Smith is a worthy winner of the Chief Minister's Award and joins an elite list of NT innovators.

"I'd also like to make special mention of Dr George Chaloupka who has been named as the Chair's Special Commendation.

"George has been one of the Territory's real quiet achievers – and it's good to see our internationally renowned rock art expert recognised for half a century of inspired work," Ms Martin said.

Minister for Business and Economic Development Paul Henderson said 51 nominations had been received for the 2006 Awards, up from the 39 nominations for last year's inaugural event.

This year the Awards were expanded to include the Indigenous Innovation Award and the Minister for Business and Economic Development's Innovation Award.

"Whether it's a product developed in a workshop or a university, or a new approach or idea developed to tackle an old issue, innovation turns the best ideas into goods and services that are practical and effective," Mr Henderson said.

"I'm very pleased to announce that we will continue the NT Research and Innovation Fund, and boost our funding to over \$1 million for the three years from 2007-08.

"Researchers and innovators step off well worn paths to develop new ideas and approaches – and tonight we have seen great examples of new ideas that hold great potential for job and business opportunities for Territorians."

**Contact Name: Rebecca Cass 0401 110 389 (Embargoed winners are attached)**

## **Award Winners (Embargoed 11pm May 11, 2006)**

### **New Generation Research and Innovation Award**

Matt Brearley

Thermal Strain in Athletes in the Tropics

- A sports scientist currently studying thermal physiology, Matt has developed a ground breaking program to assess thermal stress on athletics in the tropics used at a local, national and international level.

### **Desert Knowledge Research Award**

Glenn Marshall

Sustainable Urban Living

- A geologist who has been working since 1998 to transform Alice Springs into an example of smart desert living. Glen has a passion and commitment to improve living conditions for Alice Springs residents with his research being eagerly snapped up both locally and nationally.

### **Tropical Knowledge Research Award**

Renkang Peng, Keith Christian and Karen Gibb

Green Ants in Pest Control

- Working as a team since 1993 they have developed techniques using green ants to control insect pests of mangos and cashews. Resulting in an organic product yielding higher quality fruit, lower production costs and higher profits.

### **Indigenous Innovation Award**

Lofty Bardayal Nadjamerrek

Kabulwarnamyo- Caring for Country

- An Indigenous elder living a traditional life in his own country lofty has developed improved techniques for fire management utilising both Indigenous knowledge and modern science. As a result a new industry is emerging and new jobs are being created.

### **Minister for Business and Economic Development's Innovation Award**

Mark Smith

Syntonic Technologies Rapid Tracking Antenna

- Mark has designed and developed the patented 4148 rapid tracking antenna opening several new markets to mobile satellite communications and breaking new ground when communicating in remote areas.

### **Chief Minister's Research and Innovation Award**

Mark Smith

- Marks nomination stood out from the rest by marketing a Territory product globally.

### **Chair's Special Commendation**

George Chaloupka - Is recognised with a special presentation for his outstanding contribution over 50 years to the identification, documentation and understanding of Aboriginal rock art in the Northern Territory.