



Jon Stanhope MLA

CHIEF MINISTER

TREASURER MINISTER FOR BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MINISTER FOR INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS MINISTER FOR THE ARTS

MEMBER FOR GINNINDERRA

MEDIA RELEASE

318/06

15 September 2006

CHIEF MINISTER ANNOUNCES CANBERRA'S TOP EXPORTERS

EOS Fire Control Systems, a Canberra-based company producing advanced weapon and surveillance systems, was today named the ACT's Exporter of the Year by Chief Minister Jon Stanhope.

Fire Control Systems, which also received the Large Advanced Manufacturer Award, was chosen from nine category winners to receive the overall award. The Exporters' Hall of Fame Award went to CEA Technologies, in recognition of the company's long-term contribution to the export performance of the ACT and Region.

"Fire Control Systems is a great example of the unique expertise ACT businesses have developed in defence technology," Mr Stanhope said.

"The company has gained a tremendous reputation overseas. It is known for developing and manufacturing the world's most advanced remotely-operated and autonomous weapon and surveillance systems, which are used both for land and naval applications."

Mr Stanhope said CEA Technologies, which specialises in the design, development and manufacture of radar and communication technology, was a strong local business committed to Canberra.

"CEA was founded in Canberra in 1983, and has grown steadily over the years. Not only has the company contributed millions of export dollars to the ACT economy, but through its Washington office it has also supported other Canberra businesses looking to break into the American market," he said.

"CEA has a strong international reputation for undertaking, commercialising and marketing innovative research. As a large employer, it should also be commended for actively employing young graduates."

Winners in the other categories of the 2006 ACT Chief Minister's Export Awards are:

Agribusiness Award — Clonakilla

Clonakilla is a small family winery, established by the Kirk family at Murrumbateman in 1971. Producing a range of distinctive handcrafted wines, it specialises in wines made from two varieties originating in the Northern Rhone valley in France: Shiraz and Viognier. Clonakilla has received a number of local and international awards and accolades.

Arts, Entertainment and Design Award — Ronin Films

Ronin has operated as a film distributor for more than 30 years. While New Zealand has always been an important part of its market, it is only in the last three or four years that the company has expanded its reach into the Pacific island nations and Asia. Specialising in documentaries, it is now producing films in China.

Education Award – Centre for Customs and Excise Studies

The Centre is the first of its kind in the world, providing an international focal point for education, training, and consulting and advisory services. It also provides research capabilities for customs and excise administrations, government agencies and the international trading community. The Centre has established a global reputation for its work in the area.

Emerging Export Award – Innovation Dynamics

Innovation Dynamics provides independent, high-quality advice to technology-based organisations and companies to help them reach the market, grow and to commercialise their products. The company services a broad range of clients who benefit from its expertise in business, commercialisation, innovation and an in-depth knowledge of many technology-based sectors.

Information and Communications Technology Award – Compucat Research

Compucat specialises in the design, development, and implementation of software and hardware in highly-secure special-purpose IT and communications systems. It also produces specialised electronic warfare, reconnaissance and surveillance products. With currently around 80 staff, Compucat has its head office in Canberra with international offices in the USA and the UK.

So impressed were the judges with the quality of entrants in the ICT category that they broke tradition and officially nominated two **Highly Commended** companies in the category — **XP Software** and **Ruleburst**.

Services Award – Aspen Medical

Aspen Medical exports healthcare services delivery, consulting and E-Health to government and private sector organisations. The company provides a unique combination of extremely flexible teams of health professionals, in areas where medical services are either at a premium or non-existent. Aspen can provide people, facilities, equipment, consumables, pharmacy products and procedures.

Small to Medium Manufacturer Award – Australian Scientific Instruments (ASI)

ASI is the world leader in the supply of high-precision geochronology instruments to international customers, and manufactures sophisticated products, based on research originally undertaken by the Australian National University (with which it is affiliated).

Large Advanced Manufacturer Award – Fire Control Systems (also **Exporter of the Year)**

Small / Micro Business Award – PRD Software

PRD is a small company specialising in writing software for the service and help desk industry. Its flagship product, HelpMaster Pro, is used by thousands of users in 44 countries. The company also provides a full range of professional services to support and educate clients on a wide range of technical and business-related matters.

All category winners go on to compete at the National Export Award Gala dinner in Melbourne on 30 November 2006.

Statement Ends

Media Contact: Penelope Layland 6205 9777 0438 289 714 penelope.layland@act.gov.au