CEA Technologies was announced as one of three Engineering Excellence winners last night (8 September 2005) in the Canberra Engineering Excellence Awards. The submission detailed the ARMIDALE Class Patrol Boat Project and outlined exceptional engineering design principles, effective project management, a customer focus and improved company procedures that made the project successful. It has provided significant contributions to the ACT and Australian economy.

CEA won the contract to supply communication and direction finding systems to the Royal Australian Navy’s new ARMIDALE Class Patrol Boats in December 2003 and is currently manufacturing and installing the systems on the patrol boats.

The first patrol boat named HMAS ARMIDALE was commissioned on 24 June and is now operational. CEA’s Integrated Ship Communication System (CEA-ISCS) and WARRLOCK Direction Finding Systems are installed on the vessel and it underwent a series of successful trials prior to its commissioning.

CEA’s entry outlined innovative engineering concepts against solid engineering and management practices. One of the challenges of the patrol boat program was to install a large number of communications services on a small platform (56 metre patrol boat). CEA achieved this by designing the ships mast structure, antennas and by antenna sharing.

CEA’s President David Gaul said, “The unique feature of this project was that CEA provided a major warship communications capability in a small patrol boat on time and within budget. An area of innovation was the project financing structure developed by ANZ for CEA.

“We are honoured to have won this award which is acknowledgement of the skills and professionalism of the CEA staff, but it also reflects the performance of about 30 suppliers to CEA, many from the ACT region. We look forward to representing Canberra in the National Engineering Excellence Awards in November this year.”

The project will directly bring more than $45 million to the ACT economy underpinning about 20 engineering and technical jobs for up to five years and has resulted in flow down work to nearly 30 other ACT and Australian companies.”

For further information:
Maria Stathis
Phone: +61 (0)2 6213 0012
Mobile: +61 (0)414 530 041
Email: maria.stathis@cea.com.au