


Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **the Premier and Cabinet**



Hon Michael Mischin
MLC
Minister for
Commerce

13/11/13

MEDIA

STATEMENT

WA's brightest innovations scoop top awards

- **2013 WA Innovator of the Year Awards winners announced**
- **WA's most inventive enterprises share in \$190,000 prize pool**

Long hours spent in the laboratory have paid off for researchers at Curtin University after they won the top prize and \$100,000 at the 2013 WA Innovator of the Year Awards.

The researchers developed an ion transport membrane to separate oxygen from air, which is commercially valuable due to its superior performance in the production of pure oxygen and the chemical storage of renewable energy.

Commerce Minister Michael Mischin said Curtin University and the other four winners all represented diverse fields including biopharmaceuticals, education and manufacturing.

"This year's innovations have been very impressive and offer novel solutions that will benefit a number of industry sectors," Mr Mischin said.

"The prize money, training and mentoring opportunities provided through the awards program will equip recipients with the necessary skills to attract capital, and help them to progress and commercialise their ideas.

"The future success of these innovations will generate more jobs and economic growth for WA."

The Minister said industry needed to constantly rethink the way it conducted business in an increasingly complex and competitive world.

"Innovation is key to finding new solutions, products and services for both established and emerging industries," he said.

"These awards play a valuable role in encouraging local pioneers and fostering a culture of innovation in the State."

Other top accolades went to SEQTA Software for an online teaching and learning ecosystem for schools, MiReven Pty Ltd for a cancer treatment, Inflatable Packers International Pty Ltd for a valving mechanism for downhole casing and CASWA Pty Ltd for an access control system that ensures equipment can only be used by authorised personnel.

Fact File

- The awards are administered by the Department of Commerce with support from Mitsubishi Corporation (Principal Sponsor); Woodside, Amcom and Cisco (Encouragement Award Sponsors); Watermark Intellectual Asset Management, AusIndustry and IBM (Gold Sponsors); and Wrays and PricewaterhouseCoopers (Silver Sponsors)
- More information at: <http://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/industryinnovation>

Commerce Minister's office - 6552 5600

ATTACHMENT:

2013 Mitsubishi Corporation WA Innovator of the Year Awards winners:

Mitsubishi Corporation WA Innovator of the Year overall winner (\$100,000): Curtin University (Bentley) - Membranes, oxygen and renewable energy. A new process for making improved transport membranes with a distinctive structure and property.

Mitsubishi Corporation Emerging Innovation Category (\$25,000): MiReven Pty Ltd (Nedlands) - A microRNA cancer therapeutic. A novel cancer treatment based on the research of a particular molecule, known as miR-7, with anti-cancer activity when introduced into certain cancer cells.

Mitsubishi Corporation Growth Category (\$25,000): SEQTA Software (Joondalup) - Teachers Assistant and Coneqt. An online, real-time collaborative teaching and learning ecosystem that enables schools to manage attendance, student welfare, lesson planning, curriculum mapping, marking and academic reporting while also engaging parents and students in an interactive, supportive community.

Woodside Oil and Gas Encouragement Award (\$20,000): Inflatable Packers International Pty Ltd (Osborne Park) - Inflatable Casing Packers. A valving mechanism designed with very large flow area valving to avoid erosion and blockage of downhole casing.

Amcom and Cisco ICT Encouragement Award (\$20,000): CASWA Pty Ltd - AccessPack (O'Connor). An innovative access control system that ensures equipment can only be used by authorised personnel. It can be fitted to any type of electrically powered device including mobile, remote and battery operated equipment