



Tasmanian Minister for Education, the Honourable Mr David Bartlett MHA presents Autech's CEO Mr Darren Alexander with the C-STAR award trophy.



The 2006 C-STAR award trophy, which now sits proudly in Autech's showroom.

## Autech Wins Inaugural C-STAR Awards

On the 1st of September, 2006 Autech Software & Design was announced as the inaugural winner of the prestigious C-STAR (Commercialising Science Technology and Research) award from the Tasmania Department of Economic Development.

Up against tough competition, Autech outshone four other commercially successful finalists; Poly Systems, SVP Industries, Elphinstone Engineering, and Moonraker Australia to take out the award.

Presenting the winning trophy and a \$5,000 cheque, Minister for Education David Bartlett said the C-STAR award recognises the growing Achievements of Tasmanian Science and Technology and its entrepreneurs and highlights the importance of commercialisation of local innovations to better the Tasmanian economy.

"The current strength of Tasmania's economy is in large part due to the innovation of Tasmanian businesses and workers," Mr Bartlett said.

"It's important that we continue to foster a clever, creative culture in Tasmania - from students at school to people in business and in research, so that our economy remains strong into the future.

Mr Bartlett announced Autech was awarded the 2006 award for its outstanding achievements for the international commercialisation and research in innovative paint selection software.

Autech CEO, Darren Alexander gratefully accepted the award and speaking on behalf of the entire company was honoured to be named inaugural winner of "such a prestigious award".

"The entire Autech family are thrilled to be named winner of the C-Star award and are extremely chuffed to know that we have to find some spare



Autech's C-STAR award finalists certificate which hangs above the winner's trophy.

space in our showroom to hang this award!" said Mr Alexander.

Mr Bartlett said Autech is yet another outstanding example of a Tasmanian company leading the world in innovation and helping to drive our State's economy. "Many countries throughout the world are reaping the benefits of industry innovation and the application of new technologies into traditional industries such as manufacturing and mining.

"Great ideas don't have to come from a laboratory. Many of the best ideas come from people on the ground, working with products and thinking of better ways of doing things.

"The C-STAR Awards was developed by the State Labor Government, in conjunction with the Science and Technology Industry Council, to recognise and reward people who not only have a promising innovation but also the drive to commercialise it."

The C-STAR Awards were judged by a panel consisting of Dr John Volkman, Chairman, Tasmanian Science and Technology Council, Associate Professor Jack English, Australian Innovation Research Centre, Tony Baker, CEO UTAS Innovations Pty Ltd, and Wendy Spencer, Director, Innovation, Science and Technology unit of the Tasmanian Department of Economic Development.

Autech have previously been announced Tasmanian Exporter of the Year in 1997, 2000, 2001 and 2004. As winners of the 2006 C-Star awards, Autech will now represent Tasmania at the 2007 G'day USA expo in New York at the Australian Innovation Shootout.

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