



BRITE can improve your innovation performance

Wherever you are in the Australian building and construction industry supply chain you can benefit from innovation, according to recent research.

The BRITE Project of the Cooperative Research Centre for Construction Innovation (CRC) has recently completed six case studies of innovation in the industry. The case studies are presented as short booklets highlighting the lessons learnt by innovators. They can be downloaded for free from [www.brite.crci.info](http://www.brite.crci.info).

The key findings from the first three studies are that:

- the benefits of innovation are significant;
- innovation involving adoption of advanced technologies and practices developed elsewhere is just as beneficial as original innovation;
- the type of contract employed on a project can have a profound impact on the opportunities for innovation and the benefits derived ;
- successful implementation of innovation relies on good relationships between related parties;
- building relationships with clients is a key means of gaining competitive advantage through innovation;
- successful innovation is often dependent on good linkages with global experts; and
- small local businesses can be technology leaders.

BRITE Case Study No 1 demonstrates how whole-of-life costs for commercial buildings can be dramatically reduced without increasing up-front building costs. This achievement arose largely from a clever combination of proven air-conditioning technologies and innovative building design. Energy costs were reduced 37%.

BRITE Case Study No 2 shows the benefits that can be achieved through appropriately designed prefabricated building components. In this case, a concrete planking innovation saved over \$300,000 on a major sports stadium.

BRITE Case Study No 3 illustrates the importance of the form of contract employed on projects. The alliance contract profiled facilitated very substantial project benefits on a complex motorway development, including 10% reduction in project costs and 30% reduction in time required for project completion.

BRITE Leader Dr Karen Manley said 'the BRITE Project will be making a public call for case study nominations from businesses wanting their innovations documented and profiled for free. Nominees must be able to demonstrate that they have quantified the benefits of their innovation. The project is particularly interested in the activities of small and medium-sized business, especially in regional areas.' To pre-register your interest send an email to [k.manley@qut.edu.au](mailto:k.manley@qut.edu.au).

'The aim of the BRITE Project is to improve the incidence and quality of innovation in the Australian building and construction industry,' she said. The BRITE Project is funded by the CRC, which is a major research and development collaboration involving more than 280 individuals and an impressive alliance of 19 industry, government and research partners. The CRC is funded through a \$14 million Federal Government CRC Program grant, complemented by \$50 million of cash and in-kind support from partners.

For further information contact: [k.manley@qut.edu.au](mailto:k.manley@qut.edu.au)