

PATIENTS THE REAL WINNERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN TECHNOLOGIES COMPETITION

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Key Highlights:

- Keyhole surgery to be made safer by Australian Technology Company of the Year 2017.
- Australian innovators announced as Winners in eight categories, including cyber security and new energy.
- Unique nature of program praised by entrants, judges and mentors
- Launch of Market Entry program for Latin America

Australian high-tech companies with global potential were celebrated at a gala dinner in Sydney on 16 November. The event showcased technology companies delivering solutions across all of the country's high growth sectors including energy, resources, mining, agriculture, cities and medtech.

Following a morning of Investor Speed-Dating with twenty of Australia's leading technology investors, the companies battled it out in front of an eminent panel of judges. The companies faced 'Dragons' Den' style questioning in front of a packed audience at the Australian National Maritime Museum before the judges went into a huddle to come to their final decisions.

The Winners have solutions for detecting leaks in dams using graphene, internet voting, precision agriculture, surgical devices, safe ore processing, big data and autonomous logistics.

AWARD	WINNER	STATE	DESCRIPTION
Advanced Manufacturing & Energy Resources	Imagine Intelligent Materials	NSW	Graphene materials that are electrically conductive and act as sensors. The first product is a graphene coating for geotextiles that is used to locate leaks in dam linings at mines.
Cyber Security	SecureVote	NSW	The world's most secure, scalable and resilient internet voting system which is smartphone enabled and addresses all the current technical challenges of internet voting.
Food & Agribusiness	FluroSat	NSW	Precision agriculture and decision making in cropping through a suite of decision-support tools based on aerial and satellite images.
Medtech & Pharma	Livac	VIC	The LiVac Retractor System is used to retract the liver during upper gastrointestinal tract laparoscopic surgery with minimal trauma to patients.
Mining Technology	Mining & Process Solutions	WA	Alkaline glycine leaching process offers a new way to extract gold, copper and nickel without using cyanide and with lower cost than conventional leach processes.
New Energy	Future Grid	VIC	The Future Grid Platform processes billions of data points per day to create meaning and value for enterprises whilst reducing infrastructure costs by 90%.
Smart Cities	Premonition	NSW	Premonition optimises fleets in real-time by combining artificial intelligence and machine learning to provide Autonomous Logistics that adapts to traffic congestion, delays and missed deliveries.
People's Choice	BCAL Diagnostics	NSW	A transformational test that enables the early and accurate detection of breast cancer from a routine blood sample potentially replacing mammography globally.

The final announcement was which Category Winner would take out the prestigious title of 'Australian Technology Company of the Year'. The Runner-up was announced as Sydney-based **Premonition** and the **Australian Technology Company of the Year** was awarded to Melbourne-based **Livac**.



**AUSTRALIAN
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The LiVac Retractor

The **LiVac Retractor** provides a safe, effective liver retraction device that meets the needs of the growing Minimally Invasive (keyhole) Surgery market. As surgical wounds become smaller, improved and novel devices are required to retract internal organs to provide access to the surgical field. For example, most upper abdominal surgeries require liver retraction.

The LiVac Retractor System is the only retractor to retract the liver from above – which means that liver function is not impacted by use of the device. The LiVac Retractor System offers safe, effective liver retraction with no reported adverse events in over 500 surgeries. The LiVac Retractor System has achieved repeat sales, has a strong intellectual property position and regulatory approvals in Australia, New Zealand, Europe and the United States.



Livac CEO, Dr Anabela Correia, said, *'The team at Livac is honoured to be announced as the Australian Technology Company of the Year 2017. We are making great progress in global markets with an Australian made world's best product and are excited how this win might accelerate our growth.'*

'We are currently fund raising and the validation from the Judges of our business strategy gives us extra confidence in executing our business plan and entering new global markets.'

Competition organiser, John O'Brien, said *'Livac has developed and brought to market a world-leading technology that improves patient and hospital outcomes for upper abdominal minimally invasive (keyhole) surgery. They are set to be a major player globally and become the standard device for liver retraction. They also fit well with all of our Winners since 2011 as they take Australia's best to make a difference to the world.'*

All of the Winners feature world-leading Australian inventions combined with strong commercial acumen and international expansion strategies that persuaded the judges that they had the greatest 'global potential'.

Now in its seventh year, the ATC provides extensive mentoring and Business Plan assessment for its Semi Finalists companies. With a focus on building global success stories, the eminent panel of judges is looking for not only the best technologies but also the best managers and the best business plans.

This year's 32 Semi Finalists have jointly spent \$56 million to develop their technologies and have over 200 employees. They are jointly seeking an additional \$45m of investment to bring the solutions to market.

John O'Brien says he is on a mission to turn great technologies into great businesses, *'We aim to find the best companies, provide them with the best mentoring possible and connect them with global partners. We want to help create multi-billion-dollar global success stories.'*

Supporters and partners for the 2017 program include the Department of Industry, Innovation & Science, the Federal Government's Industry Growth Centres and industry associations including AustMine, AusBiotech, AMTIL and the Facilities Management Association. In addition, export opportunities are provided through the support of UK Department for International Trade and the Hong Kong Trade and Development Council.

Latin American Market Accelerator Program Launched

The event also included the launch of the **Latin American Market Accelerator Program** to enable Australian technology companies to access this massive and growing market.

Australian technology companies in mining, agriculture, energy and water can enter the competitive process to win a place on a mentoring program and trade mission to Santiago in April 2018 to meet with customers, business partners and investors.

More information at www.aus-latam.com

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