

MEDIA RELEASE

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Innovative, creative students rally for Science and Engineering Challenge

The countdown to this year's Tasmanian Science and Engineering Challenge series has begun.

This year, for the first time, the Challenge will be held on the UTAS campuses state-wide.

"We have received entries from many schools throughout the state," the Tasmanian State Coordinator for the Science and Engineering Challenge, Susie Haley, said today.

Hobart's three days of competition, beginning on Wednesday (4 July) on the UTAS Sandy Bay campus, is fully booked, with eight school teams competing daily.

"All the schools are really looking forward to this year's event and the winning school(s) will be able to compete in the Super Challenge to be held in Launceston on the 19th July. Each year the level of competition increases, with new as well as experienced schools impressing us all with their abilities."

Last year's winner, Launceston Christian School, has set a high standard for this year's event. They went on to win the Australian Grand Championship held in Wangaratta.

"Preparation is going particularly well and it is nothing short of inspiring to see the way our local students attack some of the difficult problems devised by the University of Newcastle," Susie said. (Newcastle is the national organiser of the Challenge).

"Students will have to be innovative and creative as well as being focused on their own tasks. The hands-on, competitive nature of the Challenge provides an experience that cannot be easily duplicated in the classroom. I am confident this year's event will be bigger and better than last year."

The Challenge is now a regular part of the school year and highly valued by science and technology teachers. It runs in every state and territory of Australia, with approximately 22,000 students participating last year.

It is highly regarded as a means of raising the awareness of students regarding career opportunities in the sciences and engineering.

The Challenge is the recipient of an Inspiring Australia grant of \$450,000 over three years.

The Tasmanian Science and Engineering Challenge is supported by the University of Tasmania, Engineers Australia and Rotary. There are more than 25 volunteers participating on each day of the competition.

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