

NT FIRM WINS TELSTRA NATIONAL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD



Telstra CEO Sol Trujillo and Telstra Group Managing Director and Telstra Business Awards Ambassador, Deena Shiff (right), congratulates Steven Rowe (centre), SRA Information Technology Managing Director, on being named 2007 Telstra Australian Business of the Year.

SRA INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY from the Northern Territory and Brookfarm from Bangalow in New South Wales shared the 2007 Telstra Australian Business of the Year award of \$10 000 at the annual national awards presentation in Sydney.

SRA Information Technology, a corporate custom software solutions provider, was presented with the award by Telstra Chief Executive Officer Sol Trujillo and Telstra Business Group Managing Director and Telstra Business Awards Ambassador Deena Shiff in front of almost 500 guests.

It was the first time in the 15 year history of the awards that two businesses tied for the honour.

"On the one hand, Brookfarm is taking traditional agricultural products and value adding while SRA Information Technology is at the forefront of independent web based applications for industry," said Ms Shiff.

Helium plant gets green light

BOC GASES AND DARWIN LNG signed a deal that will see a Helium plant built at Wickham Point near the LNG Plant.

Construction will begin in April on the first plant of its type in the Southern Hemisphere.

"This \$33 million project will create jobs during the construction phase and also when the plant is up and running," said Chief Minister Clare Martin.

"The plant will meet all of Australia's helium needs – and still have enough capacity to meet export demands."

The Chief Minister has been pushing for some of the gas piped into Darwin to be used in other downstream industries.

Territory population rises

FIGURES from the Australian Bureau of Statistics show the population has grown 2% in the year to March with 213 824 people now living here.

The Territory has exceeded the national growth rate of 1.5% and has recorded the third highest annual growth rate in Australia.

"A strong population is great news for the Territory – it means more work for local business, more money and more jobs," said Treasurer Syd Stirling.

Exploration licenses hit 1000 mark

THE NUMBER of exploration licences operating in the Territory has reached over 1000 for the first time.

Minister for Mines and Energy Chris Natt presented the 1000th licence to West Australian based company Tennant Creek Gold (NT) Pty Ltd.

Tennant Creek Gold's Manburrum project in the Bonaparte Basin, near the WA border, is one of the Territory's most advanced and promising exploration projects.

Exploration expenditure in the Territory this year is expected to reach more than \$100 million – up by more than \$80 million since 2001.

Junior explorer Toro Energy has also begun an extensive drilling program at the Napperby uranium project 150km northwest of Alice Springs.

October is Business Month

THE DEPARTMENT of Business, Economic and Regional Development is kick starting its premium business event, October Business Month 2007, on Tuesday 2 October 2007.

This year's theme, 'Growing Your Business Beyond Tomorrow', addresses the key issues affecting businesses in the Northern Territory, including labour shortages, business planning, managing business growth, uptake of technology and globalisation.

Pick up your 2007 Calendar of Events from your local Territory Business Centre. Call 1800 193 111 or book online at www.nt.gov.au/obm