

Local manufacturer wins WorkCover Safe Work Innovation award

Local manufacturing company Rotacaster has won a 2009 NSW WorkCover Safe Work Award for a self-supporting hand trolley invented for use in a range of different industries.

Called the "Rotatruck", the trolley took out the Best Solution to an Identified Workplace Health and Safety Issue category, judged on how an innovation can be implemented to reduce an identified occupational health and safety risk.

Rotacaster was announced the winner at Rosehills Garden Pavilion last night, winning the award from a field of 20 finalists from NSW and Canberra.

Managing Director Peter McKinnon said winning the award was a great honour.

"We were up against a field of some really innovative entries," he said.

"It's exciting for Rotacaster that our product is receiving global interest for its huge potential to not only minimise the risk of injury, but also have a positive impact on productivity."

Mr McKinnon invented the Rotatruck after identifying a number of safety issues associated with conventional trolleys used in the building, manufacturing, retail and delivery/transport industries.

"Conventional trolleys require the operator to place their body under a lot of strain which increases the risk of injury," Mr McKinnon said.

"Rotatruck's self-supporting feature and multidirectional wheels remove the need for operators to carry or balance any weight. This makes the trolley much easier to manoeuvre without placing unnecessary strain on the body.

"I made the prototype from timber in my garage and it's really exciting to see the manufactured version being exported to countries all around the world."

According to WorkCover NSW, about 17,000 people are seriously injured or suffer from illness related to manual handling annually. This represents about 37% of all injuries in NSW and costs NSW workplaces \$373 million with an average cost of \$22,00 per injury. When the hidden costs of injury are considered that figure is more than \$1,491 million.

The ergonomic design of the Rotatruck assists in reducing these types of injuries specifically by:

- Alleviating the need to reverse over kerbs and obstructions, allowing the operator to lever rather than lift loads;
- Keeping operator hands free for handling doors and performing associated tasks;
- Reducing the strain required to move from the loading to the transporting position; and
- Allowing the operator to move directly sideways or rotate on the spot in confined spaces.



Mr McKinnon practices what he preaches, and the Rotatruck is used throughout the Rotacaster business from the office to the factory floor.

This is not the first time Rotacaster has been recognised for its innovative inventions, with its original Rotacaster wheel winning an episode on the popular ABC television program, *The New Inventors* in 2008.

For more information on Rotacaster or the Rotatruck visit www.rotacaster.com.au

-ENDS-

Media enquiries
Maryanne Church, EnigmaCorp
4925 5152
jessiew@enigmacorp.net.au