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NATIONAL SUCCESS FOR WA SMALL BUSINESS

Perth business, SRK Consulting has achieved national success by winning the AMP Business Award (for businesses with between 50 to 100 employees) against finalists from every state and territory at the 2005 Telstra and Australian Governments' Small Business Awards.

The business' national success comes after being named the AMP Business Award winner at the Western Australian titles held last month.

SRK Consulting provides consultancy services in the mining and exploration industries in Australia and worldwide. Services range from exploration, resource estimation, mine planning, geotechnical engineering, environmental and geological support. The company has offices in Perth, Brisbane and Sydney and has a resource base of more than 500 consultants spanning six continents.

Sydney business, Whitech Software Solutions, took out the overall national award to become the 2005 Telstra Australian Small Business of the Year, after earlier winning the Panasonic Australia Business Award (for businesses with between 20 and 50 employees). The Award was presented by The Hon Fran Bailey MP, Federal Minister for Small Business and Tourism and Sol Trujillo, Telstra Chief Executive Officer.

Whitech Software Solutions develops and markets a range of photographic kiosks and point of sale software solutions to retail businesses all over the world. Whitech's software products are now sold in over seven countries and they have established offices in Sydney, New York and London. It is currently implementing a total hardware and software solution across 140 Kodak stores and is also the preferred supplier of the digital self-serve photo kiosk to Kmart Australia and Konica Australia.

The national Awards are the culmination of presentations held in each State and Territory over the past six weeks.

Other national winners in the Telstra and Australian Governments' Small Business Awards were:

- **Research One Pty Ltd (of Canberra, ACT)**, winner of the Australian Government Micro-Business Award (for business with five employees or fewer);
- **Ripe Maternity Wear (of Fairfield, Melbourne, Vic)**, winner of the MYOB Business award (for businesses with five to 20 employees).

In addition, a Telstra Country Wide[®] Incentive Award to recognise the achievements of finalists based in Telstra Country Wide[®] areas was presented to **Sunshine Coast business, Trailers 2000 Pty Ltd.**

Telstra Chief Executive Officer, Sol Trujillo congratulated the winners on their tremendous achievement.

“Over the past six weeks, these Awards have provided an insight into the extraordinary qualities that distinguish Australian small businesses. It is an honor for me to be a part of this important program that celebrates some truly amazing businesses,” Mr Trujillo said.

“Initiated by Telstra in 1992, the Awards play a pivotal role in Telstra’s ongoing commitment to finding new and smarter ways to support small businesses, to help them grow and develop their enterprise.

“Through the Awards, it is Telstra’s aim to provide small businesses with access to commercial benefits sometimes only afforded to bigger businesses – opportunities such as objective critiques of business plans, networking, publicity, positive business profiling and heightened credibility within markets,” he added.

National and State winners have shared in a prize pool valued at more than \$350,000.

The Awards are supported nationally by News Limited.

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Telstra Media Contact:

Patrick O’Beirne - Corporate Affairs Manager

Tel: 03 9634 2864 or 0407 041 836