

INC wins gold excellence award

I.N.C. engineered materials won the Gold Award for Automotive Engineering Excellence for their development of lightweight acoustic trim systems at the recent Engineering Excellence Awards of The Society of Automotive Engineers Australasia.

Ford won the silver award for the new independent rear suspension for the BA Falcon, while Holden was successful with the bronze award for the computer design systems used in the development of the Monaro.

The Orbital Engine Company received a special award for Outstanding Contribution to Advancing Technology.

In his acceptance speech, I.N.C. general manager, **John Simmons**, made special mention of the employees at I.N.C. that had contributed to the development of the lightweight acoustic trim systems, particularly Dr Marek Kierzkowski, who led the development of these systems.



Managing director, **Michael Coates**, then thanked AusIndustry for the R&D START Grant that helped to facilitate the award, as well as Holden and Kenworth Trucks for the support for they provided to the project application. He also thanked the industry for their excellent response to the introduction of the new technology.

Pictured with the award are Craig Williams, Victorian State Manager of Hewlett Packard, sponsors of the Gold award (centre), I.N.C. Managing Director Michael Coates (R), and I.N.C. General Manager, John Simmons (L)

The SAE Australasia citation comments; "The initial reaction of some people to an Insulation material in the entries may have been to anticipate something that would not have a lot of product pizzazz to it. However, review of the submission revealed a most innovative and interesting product. Not only did this entry score highly in every Award assessment criterion, it also has a wide range of potential applications in other industries. I.N.C. took a lateral approach to the design and manufacture of a dramatically improved insulating material. The product displays that innovation and excellence can still be achieved in fundamental areas of vehicle design and development as well as in the more commonly hyped electronic showcase side of technology."

Michael Coates says, "When Holden came third and then Ford came second, we were totally relaxed because we had no expectation of winning. To be honest we were all stunned and elated to win the award over such elite competition, we were pretty happy to be nominated as a finalist."

I.N.C. already has a second generation of products on the drawing board. They also intend to take their proprietary technology to automotive industries in Europe and the USA.

"Winning this award has proven our credentials. I am sure that it won't do any harm towards achieving this objective," commented John Simmons wryly.