



*Leaders in Rail Research*

# Research Briefs

## Visit Us at AusRAIL Plus 2009

The CRC for Rail Innovation invites you to visit us at our stand (Stand 212A) during AusRAIL PLUS 2009, 17-19 November. At our stand we will have comprehensive information regarding the CRC themes and details of more than 50 research projects.

For further information on the CRC for Rail Innovation themes please visit: [www.railcrc.net.au](http://www.railcrc.net.au)

Doing more with less is the theme of this year's conference, and rail research is the key to solve this challenge being faced by our industry.

Look for the morning sessions on Wednesday the 18th, as all our program leaders and program chairs will discuss different aspects of our research programme:

- The Time for High Speed Rail
- Enhancing Safety Outcomes and Unleashing Urban Rail
- Engineering for Performance Improvement
- Underpinning Rail Workforce Development

We look forward to seeing you at AusRAIL 2009!

## CRC Scoops Business Higher Education Round Table Awards

The CRC for Rail Innovation would like to congratulate Prof. Buddhima Indraratna, University of Wollongong and David Christie, RailCorp who received the Annual Business-Higher Education Round Table (BHERT) award for 2009 Most Outstanding Research and Development Collaboration Award.

The BHERT awards night was held on the 5th November at the Arts Centre, ANZ Pavillion in Melbourne.

This award is in recognition of the significant contributions made by the UOW-RailCorp partnership through the dedicated efforts of Prof. Buddhima Indraratna and David Christie over a decade for innovations in the design and construction of modern rail tracks using synthetic grids and geodrains for stabilising rail tracks built on poor ground conditions, and for introducing new ballast standards for rail tracks in Australia, catering for faster and heavier trains.

The CRC for Rail Innovation would also like to congratulate Drew Dawson and University of South Australia who received an Honourable Mention for their work in managing fatigue related risk. This collaborative research has revolutionised the management of fatigue-related risk in Australia and overseas in the last 10 years.



From Left to right: David Christie (RailCorp), David George (CEO, CRC for Rail Innovation), Buddhima Indraratna (University of Wollongong), David Hind (President, BHERT) and Drew Dawson (University of South Australia).

# Auto-CRC and CRC for Rail Innovation Join Forces

The Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Rail Innovation and the CRC for Advanced Automotive Technology (AutoCRC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in relation to Australian Road – Rail Research Collaboration.

The MoU was signed by David George, CEO of the CRC for Rail Innovation and Dr Matthew Cuthbertson, CEO of AutoCRC, and it sets out to undertake mutually beneficial and collaborative research activities in the area of Road and Rail technology particularly in relation to level crossings

The Memorandum of Understanding recognises the importance of close co-ordination and co-operation between the two organisations.

In particular, it provides for exchange of relevant information and regular consultation on research issues of joint interest, particularly at the Application and Interface Research Areas such as level crossings, transport safety, driver distraction and inter-modal (road and rail) communications; and the Technology Research Areas like communications (especially digital short range communications) and human factors.

A project from AutoCRC, Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) to Improve Safety, and another from the CRC for Rail Innovation, Integrating Driver and Traffic Simulation to Assess In-vehicle and Road-based Level Crossing Safety Interventions, have been identified as the initial projects of mutual interest. The overall objective of this CRC research is to prevent level crossing accidents by designing new Intelligent Transport System (ITS) interventions including a scientific assessment of the impacts of ITS based interventions on driver behaviour.

For more information please contact: Dr. Chris Gourlay (07) 3412-9597

## Rail Knowledge Bank Goes Ahead

The CRC for Rail Innovation is developing a Rail Knowledge Bank in conjunction with the ARRB Group and a range of stakeholders. The Knowledge Bank will be self sustaining and provide a great service to CRC Participants and other supporters.

The Rail Knowledge Bank plans to pull together existing Australian and international research and rail related information in an easily-accessible and electronic format. Already a significant number of organisations have agreed to provide access to information and work with the CRC for Rail Innovation on this exciting project.

The potential benefits of the Knowledge Bank include:

- One-stop-shop research and information database for the rail industry
- Reduction in duplication of research efforts and greater confidence in originality of research
- Reduced cost and time of literature reviews

## Learn more about our research themes!

[Click here to find the latest information about the CRC for Rail Innovation research themes](#)

