

Engineering Quest: A Case Study

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EngQuest is a highly successful schools program for students in primary and lower secondary. More than 3,500 students participated in EngQuest 2005, from all corners of Australia.

EngQuest is an initiative of Engineers Australia. Three enthusiastic members of Engineers Australia began the program in 1996 in Geelong, Victoria. In 2004 EngQuest expanded to include South Australia, Tasmania, Western Australia and Northern Territory. Stage One of the national roll-out was an outstanding success, and led to Stage Two with students in Queensland and New South Wales invited to take part in 2005.

EngQuest involves students working in teams on hands-on, exciting projects that are directly linked with the science and technology curriculum in each state. The projects involve engineering principles, and by completing the projects, students and teachers are encouraged to discover the importance of engineering in all aspects of their lives. Projects are judged at regional and state level, with the winners in each state announced at a presentation ceremony at in August or September.

This is the tenth year of EngQuest, a couple of key factors ensuring its survival and success:

- teachers are provided with **comprehensive support materials** assisting them with all aspects of the competition and linking the EngQuest projects with their key learning areas.
- the **EngQuest web-site** (www.engquest.org.au) provides a hub for information-photos of students in action, a registration form and all support materials.
- The nature of the projects ensures that students from **regional schools** are able to fully participate, with students from locations such as the Cocos Islands and the Pilbara in Western Australia taking part.
- Engineers Australia enjoys a **large membership of passionate engineers** who are keen to be involved in promotion of the program and also in visiting schools to share their engineering experiences and motivate students.
- EngQuest has developed key partnerships with **sponsors** and **science education centres** who assist in the promotion of EngQuest, hosting state finals and providing valuable prizes and in-kind support.

EngQuest has experienced considerable success over the past ten years, with increasing involvement across Australia, and positive feedback from students, teachers, sponsors and other stakeholders. The future of EngQuest is bright, as Engineers Australia continues to develop this schools program to meet Australia's

increasing need for engineers, enthusing students from as early as primary school to consider engineering as a future career.