



PRESS RELEASE

Collaboration and Open Data: Key Drivers for Government in Innovation Agenda

At annual awards ceremony, federal & state innovation ministers talk of importance of collaboration, open data and cultural change required to continue with Australia's growth

Sydney, Dec 8, 2016: The prize giving ceremony of the inaugural *BigInsights Data Innovation Awards* saw Australia's federal and state ministers outlining the country's onward march in Innovation, simultaneously stressing on the need for a government-private enterprise alliance to propel economic growth.

Federal Assistant Minister for Industry, Innovation & Science, Hon Craig Laundy, MP, and NSW Minister for Innovation & Better Regulation, Hon Victor Dominello were chief guests at the luncheon meet on December 6 organised by Australia's well-known boutique Data & IoT analytics research & advisory firm, *BigInsights* and *Consensus* whom managed the Awards. Over 150 industry professionals were in attendance at the event at the University of Sydney where winners of *BigInsights Data Innovation Awards* for 2016 were presented with awards by the two ministers.

Mr Laundy stressed that the key focus under the Government's Innovation plan was to commercialise research and foster culture of collaboration. He pointed to the example of government collaborating with business using open data to create cloud service IPNOVA, that provided search methods to access 100 years of IP patent data and usage. Collaboration between business and research institutions was also needed for Australia to continue uninterrupted on its path of economic growth. The Minister emphasised that cultural barriers needed to be overcome within government, business and research centres to create this collaboration mindset.

'Mission Open Data' was something that was not only at the federal level but was being actively pursued even at the state level, informed Mr Dominello. "I have a furious appetite for reforms," he told the audience. "Every government talks about sharing data but no one does it because

they know as soon as you share data you open yourself up to accountability and transparency, and nobody likes that. But governments can no longer work in a silos”, he felt. Giving an example, he said the voters of New South Wales were demanding that bureaucrats share information in order to improve government services across the state.

“We created legislation that empowers an agency, subject to privacy, subject to security, to ask departments to give them data in 14 days. That is a silo breaker. It is the first of its kind in Australia and one of 1st in the world,” added Mr Dominello.

Giving another example of collaboration on Big Data, he said the government had been struggling with public health related problems such as the high number of cases of domestic violence. “Can’t we use Big Data to resolve such issues?” he wondered.

Both ministers also referred to a suggestion made at the start of the event by [BigInsights](#) Principal Raj Dalal, for more collaboration between government and private sector. “We are on the cusp of another mining boom, the big data mining boom. We recognize the early pioneers using these techniques to solve industry and society’s issues at these Awards”, Mr Dalal told the audience in his welcome speech.

About the Awards

The Awards were instituted to recognise teams delivering business outcomes using Data Analytics techniques and technologies. Awards attracted interests from over 35 organisations, 18 entries were received, of which 6 were declared winners in the five categories. They were judged by a team of independent industry experts.

The Winners of the [2016 BigInsights Data Innovation Awards](#) were:

- **Best Industry Application of Data Analytics** - *Ambiata Pty Ltd*

Scalable Machine Learning and Experimentation System for Personalised Advertising

- **Best Industry Application of IoT** - *Internet of Light Technologies Pty Ltd*

Light Net - creating intelligent buildings and smart cities through a new global communications network of connected intelligent Lighting

- **Best Industry Application of AI/Cognitive** - *Strategos Pty Ltd*

Stratejos - an artificial team assistant that helps teams know the real status of projects, identifying risks and helping solve problems.

- **Best Customer Insights** (Joint winners) (1) *CellIOS Software Limited*

Data Revenue Assurance Solution – provides a real-time view of all the data, structured & unstructured, giving business insights to take corrective action.

(2) *University of Technology Sydney in partnership with Colonial First State*

Deep Analytics for Superannuation Client Churn Insight and Prediction

- **Best Start-Up** - *Briometrix Pty Ltd*

Mobile Health devices and metrics for people who use wheelchairs

NSW Minister for Innovation & Better Regulation, Hon Victor Dominello was also felicitated and honoured with the BigInsights Data Innovation Award for his Leadership & Vision.

In response, the Minister said, “I am honoured and humbled to accept this award. I would like to sincerely thank BigInsights for presenting me with the award and for all the significant work they do in harnessing data driven innovation.”



Photo Caption:(Left to Right) Federal Assistant Minister for Industry, Innovation & Science, Hon Craig Laundy MP, BigInsights Principal Raj Dalal, NSW Minister for Innovation & Better Regulation, Hon Victor Dominello and Consensus CEO Julian Day.

Summing up, Mr Dalal announced the [BigInsights](#) Awards next year will grow and include an Asia-Pacific focus and creation of a separate BigInsights IoT Innovation Award program.

This year's [BigInsights Data Innovation Awards](#) were sponsored by University of Technology Sydney (UTS) and Hitachi Consulting and supported by Australian Consensus Technology Association (ACTA), TiE, and The Data Warehouse Institute (TDWI), and QESP Inc.

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