

Congratulations Chris Rowe and Chris Townsend

Masters of Philosophy (Electrical Engineering) students, Chris Rowe and Chris Townsend, from the School of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science, competed in the global final of the prestigious Vestas Winnovation Challenge for 2009. The final was held in Denmark on the third and fourth of December. There were 44 finalists from around the world including some of the best engineering students from Europe, Asia and America.

The Vestas Winnovation Challenge is open to Master of Engineering and Master of Business students worldwide. The rules of the competition required the engineering students to meet the challenge of devising methods of making wind energy more cost effective and subsequently more attractive.

As finalists Chris and Chris were awarded an all expenses paid trip to Denmark and presented their concept of creating a “synergy between hydroelectric and wind generation in an appropriate environment” to top Vestas executives including the the President of Technology R&D, Finn Strøm Madsen.

Only one competition winner is selected from engineering and Chris Rowe was the winner for 2009. A fantastic result. His prize includes international travel and the opportunity to interact with Vestas’ best researchers.

Vestas is the leading manufacturer of wind turbines in the world with a capacity of some 4,500 megawatts installed globally in 2007. They have major installations in Australia with turbines installed in every state. It’s core business comprises the development, manufacture, sale and maintenance of wind technology that uses the energy of the wind to generate electricity.