

**FOR RELEASE**  
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### **Outstanding Queensland technology innovation showcased at 2021 AIIA iAwards**

Australia's peak industry representative body for innovation technology, the Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA) is proud to announce the winners of the 2021 Queensland iAwards. The awards unearth, recognise and reward excellence in Australian innovation.

The iAwards are Australia's longest running and most broadly scoped innovation recognition program, promoting excellence in the Australian digital technology ecosystem.

The 28th annual ceremony recognising the Queensland entrants took place on 23rd June at its second ever fully virtual award ceremony. The entry process for the 2021 iAwards followed the widely popular 2020 entry process, with entrants submitting a three-minute pitch along with their submission, for what was called "The BIGGEST Pitch". They demonstrated the incredible ways that businesses, government departments, startups and not-for-profit organisations continue to change and embrace innovative digital technologies.

AIIA CEO, Ron Gauci, said: "The innovation demonstrated at this year's iAwards is second to none and has amazed the judging panel once again. A huge congratulations to the winners this year as they are brilliant examples of individuals and organisations who are making a difference and have the potential to create positive change for the community. All entrants deserve recognition for their hard work and brilliant ideas. We want to thank them for their continued commitment to furthering Australia's capability in innovation technology.

"Despite the challenges of the past year, this year's iAwards entrants are a demonstration of the fact that innovation and digital technologies can help lead Australia's future. At the heart of the technology industry is the need for growing and nurturing strong local ICT skills. We endeavor for the iAwards to be such a platform for budding innovators. The AIIA strongly believes we need to be inspiring younger generations, both in school and post school, to take up a career in the digital technology sector.

"Queensland is coming last on the digital inclusion index and as the ICT Industry is key to Australia's economic recovery, the AIIA is proud to unearth some of the state's best innovations. The winners of the 2021 iAwards continue to reflect the immense talent in Australia and the largely untapped potential Australia's ICT sector holds." Mr Gauci said.

The 2021 Queensland iAwards are presented in six categories to showcase the breadth of innovation and technology across multiple sectors.

The 2021 Queensland iAwards winners by Category are:

- **Government & Public Sector Solution of the Year, sponsored by SAP - [University of Southern Queensland](#)**  
**Innovation:** Artificial Intelligence algorithms identifying hoax emergency calls

- **Not for Profit & Community Solution of the Year, sponsored by Telstra Purple - [Orange Sky Australia](#)**  
**Innovation:** Volaby
- **Start-Up of the Year, sponsored by Deloitte - [SKYLECT](#)**  
**Innovation:** SKYLECT
- **Business & Industry Solutions of the Year, sponsored by Deloitte - [Bidhive](#)**  
**Innovation:** Bidhive the end-to-end bid management application
- **Technology Platform Solution of the Year, sponsored by Telstra Purple - [CRC ORE](#)**  
**Innovation:** The Integrated Extraction Simulator

Details on each of our winners can be found below.

Each of the 2021 Queensland iAwards winners will now compete for the coveted National iAwards title which will be announced at the Gala event in September. The AIIA iAwards are supported by the Victorian Government, NBN Co, The University of Queensland, Dell, Telstra Purple, ServiceNow, the ACT Government, CDC Data Centres, IBM and QUTeX. The AIIA thanks them for their commitment to supporting the tech sector.

AIIA is a not-for-profit organisation aimed at supporting and advocating for Australia's future social and economic prosperity through technology innovation.

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**AIIA's 2021 Queensland iAwards - About the Winners**

**Government & Public Sector Solution of the Year - Innovation:** Artificial Intelligence algorithms identifying hoax emergency calls - **Winner:** University of Southern Queensland *Aiming to aid emergency service technology, this AI algorithm determines distress in real-time by detecting the physiological changes in speech caused by genuine distress. This aims to help manage high volume calls on a two-tier system based on level of distress.*

**Not for Profit & Community Solution of the Year - Innovation: Volaby - Winner: Orange Sky Australia**

*Volaby is a volunteer management solution that enables volunteer-led organisations to do more with less for their community by allowing them to easily on-board, manage, measure and scale the impact of the great work performed by their volunteers, and organisation as a whole.*

**Start-Up of the Year - Innovation: SKYLECT - Winner: SKYLECT**

*SKYLECT takes a modular approach to build a continuously available virtual environment to nurture and promote talent and knowledge in unconventional life-like ways. It allow users to create, edit, promote and transform any content into a compelling textual or visual narrative ready to share in an intelligent virtual venue called 'Experiences'.*

**Business & Industry Solutions of the Year - Innovation: Bidhive the end-to-end bid management application - Winner: Bidhive**

*Creating an opportunity to improve transparency in government spending, Bidhive is a cloud-based application that enhances the bidding capability and capacity of businesses of all sizes. It does this by removing information silos that generate efficiencies and failed bids, and by facilitating bidding best practice to measurably improve win ratios.*

**Technology Platform Solution of the Year - Innovation: The Integrated Extraction Simulator - Winner: CRC Ore**

*IES enables mine planners and process engineers to understand how the geological variability of an orebody will impact the performance of the mineral processing plant over time. It provides the ability to see how the mill will perform over time and insights on future improvements. It provides two functioning models to better best processing and performance practices.*

**About AIIA**

The Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA) is Australia's peak representative body and advocacy group for those in the digital ecosystem. Since 1978 AIIA has pursued activities to stimulate and grow the digital ecosystem, to create a favourable business environment for members and to contribute to Australia's economic prosperity. We do this by delivering outstanding member value by providing a strong voice of influence; building a sense of community through events and education; enabling a network for collaboration and inspiration; and developing compelling content and relevant and interesting information.