



Finalists defy WA downturn

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A stellar line-up of finalists in the annual WA Industry and Export Awards hail from diverse fields including medical research companies, revolutionary tech start-ups and the stalwart sectors of mining and agribusiness.

The breadth of industries recognised in the 2015 awards, which are held next week, is seen as testament to WA's diversifying economy following the resources downturn.

There are three finalists vying for the CY O'Connor Award for Excellence in Engineering and Technology Industry Award.

EMC Solar Construction, which produces prefabricated containerised solar power supply systems which can withstand the harshest conditions, is one finalist in this category. Engineering group PDC is seeking to take the award next week for its designs and detailing and its 3D Building Information Modelling system.

Both are facing tough competition from the third finalist, SEQTA Software, the world's first integrated software for teachers, which was created by a former teacher.

Those three finalists are also in the running for the the Innovation Excellence Industry Award.

The finalists in the Marketing and Design Excellence Industry Award have shown how a good marketing campaign can boost customers and revenue.

Austral Fisheries and The Perth Mint found new customers for the their products with some marketing adjustments.

Austral Fisheries is also vying for the Agribusiness Export Award. It is up against abattoir

Fletcher International WA, which exports to 90 countries, and the family-run Capogreco Farms, which exports to Asia

and the Middle East. Capogreco is the only finalist in the Regional Exporter Award, while Scitech Discovery Centre is the only company listed for Creative Industries Award.

PDC is also in the running for the Business Services Export Award, along with Linear Clinical, which tests drugs on humans.

Linear Clinical is also a finalist in the Health and Biotechnology Export Award, where it is up against Proteomics International, which analyses proteins in the body to detect disease.

There are three finalists in the Education and Training Export Award category — the Engineering Institute of Technology, Scitech Discovery Centre and Stanley College.

PDC is the only company to make the final round in four categories, with the company to face off against Trimble Mining and its Mining Information Systems in the Information and Communication Technology Export Award category.

Trimble Mining is competing against Vortala, a web design company which specialises in healthcare, for the Small Business Export Award.

While the resources sector has taken a hit lately, two finalists in the Minerals, Energy and Related Services Export Award have shown it is still possible to make an outstanding contribution to the industry.

Falck, which is an accident prevention company, and CSA Global, a 30-year-old mining consultancy, are finalists in the category.

