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Young entrepreneur wins top NSW ICT award

NSW Minister for Commerce, John Della Bosca, has announced that the Chief Executive of a software security company has won one of NSW's most prestigious information and communications technology (ICT) awards.

Mr Della Bosca presented communications technology entrepreneur Matt Barrie with the 2006 NSW Pearcey Award for Young Achievers at a ceremony at Sydney University this evening.

"Mr Barrie is Chief Executive Officer and co-founder of Sensory Networks, a leading developer advanced computer security technologies," Mr Della Bosca said.

"He developed an innovative business plan and raised significant amounts of money from professional investors to set up the company.

"Sensory Networks now has well established operations in the US, China and Australia and is supplying core technology components to some of the world's largest security software firms including McAfee.

"Mr Barrie also lectures in Information Security and Cryptography at the University of Sydney, sharing his knowledge and expertise with the future generation of ICT professionals," the Minister said.

The Pearcey Award encourages and rewards fresh and innovative talent in the NSW ICT industry. It was established in 1999 by the Pearcey Foundation to celebrate high achievers and attract young Australians into the industry.

The Pearcey Committee acknowledged a number of other outstanding candidates who have a well proven capacity to build highly successful ICT enterprises.

Highly commended candidates included: Steven Hasani, CEO of NetLeverage, Eric Heyde, CEO of Cirrus Communications, Tony Bailey, CEO of Access Testing and Ilkka Tales, CEO of Engin Limited.

The NSW Department of State and Regional Development and North Sydney TAFE sponsored the Pearcey Awards this year. The NSW Government has sponsored the Award since 1999.

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ICT remains a priority for the Lemma Government. In July, Mr Della Bosca launched *People First* – a new, detailed and ambitious four-year plan that reprioritises the Lemma Government’s \$1 billion ICT budget.

“*People First* is a new direction for the delivery of ICT services in NSW,” the Minister said.

“It is about making sure the Government has the technological capacity and infrastructure to improve service delivery and to make better use of its ICT spending power.

“It is good news for the local ICT industry and IT entrepreneurs because we are concentrating on new frontline and core business systems that are unique to this Government.

“*People First* means more money for frontline technologies like e-learning, patient care, police operations, community and emergency services,” Mr Della Bosca added.

Media contact: Daniel Dew 9228 4777 or 0401 122 951