

And the winner is...

On the 12th of February 2009, Rio Tinto Iron Ore (RTIO) held their annual award function for the Australia West Supplier Recognition Program. A decade since its inception these coveted awards seek to motivate a joint effort to improve the total supply chain and recognise excellence in supplier performance across the Western Australian iron ore businesses.

RTIO Chief executive, Sam Walsh presented the Overall Award for Supplier Excellence 2008 to CADDs Engineering. Also recognised for Excellence in the Provision of Intellectual Services, CADDs Engineering conducted several hundred design engineering projects for Rio Tinto during 2008 and their innovative designs provided engineering solutions to a wide variety of identified problems across the Pilbara sites.

Whilst it may seem difficult to compare the performance of one supplier to another when they provide a different product or service, RTIO's Supplier Recognition Program looks at core competencies across a number of generic measures throughout the program year. They also review a broad scope of categories including health, safety and environment, quality, administration, communication and planning, innovation and contribution to sustainable development.



Sam Walsh (second from right) presents the Supplier Recognition Program trophy to Alan Moody Director CADDs with other members of the CADDs team displaying their recognition certificates.

In his opening address to the 170 supplier representatives and staff, Sam Walsh spoke of the need to adjust plans to meet the global economic challenges and the focus on reducing costs throughout the supply chain. Walsh commented that, "cost improvement initiatives must be real and bankable now. Rio Tinto would expect to see changes in input costs reflected in the prices paid for services and goods in the future."

Over 50 innovations were submitted by participating suppliers in the 2008 program. If you have any queries about RTIO's Australia West Supplier Recognition Program, contact Paul Davis, Practice Leader – Source and Buy, Australia West.