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Sense-T to take Oyster App to Hong Kong

Sense-T is off to Hong Kong to compete in the 2013 Asia Pacific iAwards after winning a national Merit Award in the Regional Category in Melbourne last night (Thursday 8 August).

The award recognised Sense-T's AquaDS system, a web-based application for the oyster industry that gives a real-time digital overview of oyster farms across Tasmania.

The application was developed by CSIRO scientists as part of Sense-T's Aquaculture Optimisation Project. It is an easy-to-use web interface that presents a range of real-time, historical and geographical data about environmental conditions that could impact the oyster industry.

The app is currently being used by the Tasmanian Shellfish Quality Assurance Program (TSQAP), which is charged with protecting consumers from illness caused by shellfish. It has to judge whether the water being filtered by oysters could make people sick.

Using the app, the regulator no longer has to collect and analyse the available data every time it needs to make a decision. This helps to protect consumers, while minimising the impact on industry by ensuring closures occur only when necessary.

Sense-T Director Ros Harvey said the awards recognised not just the science, but the potential commercial application of the product.

"This is a great example of research excellence combined with practical industry outcomes. We've already been in discussions with other states about applying the technology."

The web app is being adapted for use by oyster farmers themselves to help them optimise production and predict when closures are likely to occur. This means they can get their product out of the water and onto the market before harvesting closes.

Next on the agenda is to integrate the information from new bio-sensors that are currently being trialed. These can be attached directly to oysters to provide real-time data about heartbeat, temperature, feeding and position in the water.

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About Sense-T

Based in Tasmania, Sense-T is creating the world's first economy-wide sensor network. It is building a digital view of the entire island by combining real-time data from sensors with historical records and spatial data. Information will be available through easy-to-use apps to help businesses, governments and communities better manage their resources - to help them do more with less.

Sense-T is a partnership program between the University of Tasmania, the Tasmanian Government, CSIRO (through the Australian Centre for Broadband Innovation) and IBM. It is also funded by the Australian Government. Sense-T establishes Tasmania as a centre for technology and research excellence, where shared data drives new approaches to social, environmental and economic sustainability that can be scaled cost-effectively elsewhere. Visit the Sense-T website at www.sense-t.org.au for more information.