

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release: Friday 30 May 2008

EXIT LIGHT WINS AWARD FOR SUSTAINABLE DESIGN

An emergency exit sign that can give a 70% energy saving and potential greenhouse emissions reductions has been given the green light by the Australian International Design Awards and Sustainability Victoria.

The [Slide Connect G2 Emergency Exit Sign](#), co-designed by Formwerx Product Design Consultants and Bluesky Design Group for Legrand Australia, was presented the **Award for Excellence in Sustainable Design** at the 2008 Australian International Design Awards on Friday 30 May.

The Slide Connect G2 is a world-first emergency lighting and exit sign system which uses a single, high brightness, long life LED with custom designed optics.

Judges were impressed with the overall quality and 'smartness' of design, in particular the ease at which the energy-saving system can be retrofitted to existing Legrand exit signs.

"The opportunity to potentially retrofit nearly a million existing emergency exit lights without replacing the whole unit offers significant greenhouse emissions savings which can't be overlooked," said Kel Dummett, Manager of Sustainability Victoria's Sustainable Design Program and one of the judges.

The Slide Connect G2 not only gives a substantial energy saving through the use of a single LED and custom electronics (over a fluorescent globe), but there are potential greenhouse emissions savings of 40,000 tonnes per year if the system is fitted to 800,000 existing Legrand exit lights.

The system also features a downward projection of white light which could potentially eliminate the need for separate lights to illuminate exit doors, as well as an innovative and functional lens moulding.

To win the Award for Excellence in Sustainable Design, judges look for a design that carefully considers ways to reduce the product's environmental footprint, in particular water, material and energy efficiency throughout all stages of a product's life cycle, from design to manufacture and use.

Ms Stephanie Watson, Manager of the Australian International Design Awards said the Award was introduced last year to recognise designers who take into account environmental and sustainability considerations.

"Consumers are becoming increasingly concerned about the environmental impact of their purchase decisions. This award helps to identify green products in the market and further encourages designers and manufacturers to choose more sustainable and environmentally-friendly options," Ms Watson said.

"Research estimates that up to 70% of a product's environmental impact is 'locked in' at the design stage. Designers can help make an environmental difference by encouraging manufacturers to implement sustainability strategies when it comes to the choice of materials, energy consumption, water use, toxins and packaging," Ms Watson said.

Mr Dummett said the Slide Connect G2 was the perfect example of a product where both designers and manufacturers had collaborated and adopted sustainability strategies in the early stages of design and beyond.

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The 2008 Australian International Design Awards were announced on Friday 30 May at the Australian Technology Park in Sydney.

A division of Standards Australia, the Australian International Design Awards, is Australia's longest standing product design awards program, recognising design excellence and innovation. This year, for the first time, internationally-designed products available for sale in Australia were eligible to enter. 2008 marks the 50th anniversary of rewarding and promoting design in Australia.

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