



VSSEC-NASA Australian Space Prize Category winners announced



Four Australian undergraduate students have been shortlisted for the VSSEC-NASA Australian Space Prize, and the opportunity to spend 10 weeks working with a NASA scientist or engineer as part of the NASA Academy Program in 2010. These programs are normally only available to US citizens, and will be the first time an Australian student is offered this exciting and prestigious opportunity.

This competition will help build the skills needed by the emerging Australian Space Industry, which supports the goals of the Australian Government's Australian Space Science Program announced in the last budget.

All students' submissions were of a very high standard, demonstrating the innovative research being conducted in Australian universities.

The winning students by category are:

Biology and Human Physiology:

Elizabeth Blaber, University of New South Wales

Bioastronautics: The Influence of Simulated Microgravity on Human Stem Cells

Space Engineering:

Aaron Podmore, University of New South Wales

The Design and Production of New Economically Viable Lightweight Bulk Metallic Glasses

Geology and Planetary Geology:

Andrew Langendam, Monash University

Core Formation in the Early Solar System: the Influence of Hypervelocity Impacts on Textures and Geochemical Signatures

Space Physics and Astrophysics:

Stuart Mead, University of Southern Queensland

Numerical Modelling of Horizontal Flow in Sand Filters

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The prize is supported by:

- Victorian Space Science Education Centre
- NASA
- CSIRO
- Engineers Australia National Committee for Space Engineering
- Geological Society of Australia Specialist Group in Planetary Science
- La Trobe University
- Victoria University
- The University of Sydney
- Australian Centre for Field Robotics
- Swinburne University of Technology
- Swinburne Astronomy Online
- Australian Academy of Science National Committee for Space Science
- University of South Australia
- Institute for Telecommunications Research
- Curtin University of Technology
- Monash University
- Monash School of Geoscience
- RMIT
- University of New South Wales
- Australian Centre for Astrobiology
- Australian Space Research Institute
- Australian Space Industry Chamber of Commerce
- National Space Society of Australia
- Mars Society of Australia