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## Sparking Curiosity In Future Engineers

**Engineers Without Borders Australia (EWB) is proud to announce Bentley Systems as the official partner for the EWB Innovation Challenge. The Innovation Challenge, is an annual STEM outreach initiative which aims to inspire and empower the next generation of technical specialists primarily from backgrounds currently under-represented in the engineering sector.**

The Innovation Challenge program is designed around a series of 'mini-challenge' workshops, guest presentations from current students and industry professionals, and a larger 'Design Challenge' team activity. The workshops are hands-on, creative, and draw on EWB's existing portfolio of engagement activities – designed to illustrate the humanitarian nature of an industry often misunderstood as purely technical.

In the 'Design Challenge', teams are guided through a human-centred design process by Bentley staff and current university students affiliated with EWB who act as 'design mentors', supporting and connecting with participants as they work through the process of developing an engineering solution to a relevant real-world challenge.

Vinayak Trivedi, Vice President, Bentley Education – Bentley Systems said, "Bentley Systems is pleased to sponsor the 'Innovation Challenge' program, which aims to empower students who are underrepresented in our sector, such as girls and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

This program truly aligns with Bentley Education's values of helping students from all backgrounds transition into the professional world and create world-class talent to improve their quality of life and positively change the world."

Engineers without Borders have partnered with Bentley Systems since 2011. The partnership originally focussed on society, environment and professional sustainability. In later years, on impact through education with specific focus on Regioneeering and Schools Outreach, EWB's flagship STEM outreach program.

"We are grateful to Bentley Systems for the continued support and sponsorship of the Innovation Challenge." said Enrica Longo, EWB Partnerships and Philanthropy Manager. 'Together with our volunteers we will be igniting a passion for human centred engineering in future engineers who will go on to have a positive impact in communities both in Australia and overseas. Without our corporate partners it would be impossible to bring such programs to life."

### Details

**Who:** Bentley Systems joins EWB-A as the official partner of the Innovation Challenge

**When:** The 3-day Innovation Challenge event is expected to be delivered in the last week of November.

**Where:** University of Melbourne

**What:** The Innovation Challenge

- The 2021 Innovation Challenge will aim to engage approximately 60 students from schools across Victoria (approximately 50/50 regional and metro split).

- Participants are drawn from schools across Victoria, with a focus on regional areas, those with low SES scores, girls and students who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, as they are currently under-represented in the engineering sector.
- The Innovation Challenge brings together Year 9 and 10 students for three days of learning and collaboration, so that program participants leave with a broader perspective of the possible shape a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) career path might take for them.
- Students are hosted for 3-days on the University of Melbourne campus and engage with multi-faceted engineering workshops which test their ingenuity and provide a platform for exploring the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of engineering – from digital technology to major infrastructure.

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**About Engineers Without Borders Australia:** Engineers Without Borders Australia was established in 2003 to create social value through engineering. EWB inspires a movement of engineers and the engineering community to be Technology Stewards and mobilises engineering to develop equitable, scalable and sustainable technology for all. Visit: [www.ewb.org.au](http://www.ewb.org.au).