



## BRIGHT SPARKS A FINALIST IN INNOVATION AWARDS

ETITO's Bright Sparks programme has been named a finalist in the education category at the 2011 TUANZ Innovation Awards.

Run by the Telecommunications Users Association of New Zealand, the TUANZ Innovation Awards honour companies and individuals who make outstanding contributions to telecommunications in New Zealand.

Bright Sparks was created by ETITO in 2000 to foster a passion for electronics in New Zealand schools and to promote career paths in the hi-tech industry.

The initiative includes an ETITO-developed qualification that is delivered in secondary schools, an online community for budding technology aficionados and an annual competition in which entrants develop their own electronics or programming inventions.

Since its inception, many Bright Sparks members have moved on to tertiary study in engineering and technology, and many are now working in the hi-tech sector.

Ross Petersen, ETITO In Schools Manager and the driving force behind Bright Sparks, is thrilled with the programme's success. "Bright Sparks is the only initiative of its kind in New Zealand and has made a difference in the lives of thousands of students over the years. It's something that we at ETITO are proud in having created and guided over the past 11 years along with our supporters"

The winners will be announced at an awards evening in Auckland on 21 July. For more information, visit [www.tuanz.org.nz](http://www.tuanz.org.nz).

The finalist announcement comes a day after the launch of a new and improved Bright Sparks website, which is aimed at giving competition winners a place to showcase their inventions while also providing an online forum where they can swap technology tips and ideas. You can see the new site at [www.brightsparks.org.nz](http://www.brightsparks.org.nz).