

## Ren Potts Medal

The Ren Potts Medal of the Australian Society for Operations Research (ASOR) is intended to recognise individuals who have made outstanding contributions to theory or practice of OR in Australia. It is a national award. The 2015 medal was presented on 30 November 2015, at the ASOR National Conference on the Gold Coast.

Emeritus Professor Phil Howlett (University of South Australia) and Professor Erhan Kozan (Queensland University of Technology) are the joint recipients of the 2015 Ren Potts Medal.

### **Erhan Kozan: joint recipient of the Ren Potts award in 2015**

Professor Erhan Kozan is Adjunct Professor of operations research in the School of Mathematical Science, Queensland University of Technology and honorary professor in the Sustainable Minerals Institute, University of Queensland, Australia.

He has had over 40 years industrial, managerial, teaching and research experience in the areas of operations research. He has acted as principal investigator for over 30 long-term industrial projects, and over 20 competitive national and international research grants since 1996 in the area of health, finance, mining, car and truck production, railways, seaports transportation, logistics and supply chain.

He is the author of a book, 10 software packages and over 20 journal papers and conference papers. He is the editor/associate editor of seven journals and works as a referee of over 40 international journals. He has supervised over 35 postgraduate research students.

He is the former president of the Asia Pacific Industrial Engineering and Management Society (APIEMS) and the Australian Society for Operations Research. He is an expert in disciplinary research across decision science and scheduling theory. His current research focuses on the area of healthcare process optimisation, train scheduling and mine optimisation.

### **Phil Howlett: joint recipient of the Ren Potts award in 2015**

Emeritus Professor Phil Howlett has made a sustained and outstanding contribution to both the theory and practice of Operations Research. He has published three books and more than 100 journal papers, won approximately \$6m in competitive funding from the Australian Research Council and the Rail Cooperative Research Centre and trained 13 PhD students.

Howlett led the Scheduling and Control Group at the University of South Australia (1993–2011), which invented and developed a suite of rail technology systems with Sydney-based company TTG Transportation Technology. For example, on-board driver advice system Energymiser helps trains to arrive on time while minimising

energy use. It has been used around the world and has won industry awards in both Australia and the UK. With colleague Peter Pudney, Howlett designed driving strategies for solar-powered racing cars, leading to Aurora 101 winning the 1999 World Solar Challenge.

Howlett has also made substantial contributions to the development of stochastic optimal control policies for water storage in a system of connected dams, and to generation of synthetic rainfall data. More broadly, he has worked on operator approximation, signal processing and inversion of matrix and operator pencils.

Howlett has given many years of service to the Australian Mathematical Society via ANZIAM and the Mathematics-in-Industry Study Group.