

Media Release

25 August 2015

TRANSURBAN ANNOUNCES FIRST INNOVATION GRANT RECIPIENT

Transurban has today announced the first recipient of its Innovation Grants Program, awarding a \$100,000 grant to a team led by Dr Thomas Fiedler from the University of Newcastle to develop a revolutionary material for road safety barriers.

The material being developed is a metallic foam that is strong, light and highly absorbent with the ability to cushion collision impacts.

Dr Fiedler said the compact and absorbent nature of the material differed from existing barrier systems which were designed to buckle when impacted and required large amounts of space.



“We will use the Transurban grant to modify the material for use in roadside barriers, develop prototypes in our lab and test them with state-of-the-art equipment,” Dr Fiedler said.

“We expect the barriers will reduce the impact of crashes; so when placed in critical locations they will noticeably improve safety for road users.”

Transurban CEO Scott Charlton said the project exemplified the purpose of the grants program which was designed to support the research and development of ideas that advance road technology, systems and safety.

“At Transurban ‘ingenuity’ is one of our core values and we constantly look for new ways to improve our road networks and operations,” Mr Charlton said.

Classification **Public**

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“The Innovation Grants Program is a natural extension of our approach and provides a way for us to engage with world-class researchers and organisations to develop ideas that could lead to advancements in our industry.

“We are delighted to be partnering with Dr Fiedler’s team and the University of Newcastle to develop a high-performing, low-cost barrier alternative that could produce tangible safety results across road networks.”

More information about the program is available on the Transurban website:
transurban.com/innovation_grants

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