Media Release

Global opportunity to find solutions for Christchurch

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The inclusion of Christchurch in a global solution-finding competition will ensure the very best minds in the world contribute to regeneration of the city, says Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority chief executive Roger Sutton.

Christchurch is one of 21 cities taking part in the Living Labs Global Awards - Cities Pilot The Future programme this year, and was chosen from 350 cities to do so.

The competition invites groups and industries from around the world to come up with a solution to a particular challenge each city has. The cities then choose a winner and that solution is piloted.

Christchurch has identified transformational lighting as the challenge it wants addressed, and is hoping the contest will result in an integrated lighting system for the central city which is future-proofed for use in years to come.

A panel selected by the Christchurch Central Development Unit (CCDU) will choose the winning entry and the city will fund the logistical requirements to get the pilot scheme up and running.

"This is a great opportunity for the experts to sit down and figure out what this city needs as it grows and changes. No doubt there are technologies out there in their infancy that this project will bring to life. It's going to be extremely interesting to see what solutions and ideas we are presented with," Mr Sutton says.

Previous LLGA competitions have resulted in real-time traffic monitoring systems for Barcelona and an anti-movie piracy pilot in Lagos.

The CCDU panel will select the winning transformational lighting system for Christchurch at a summit in San Francisco next May.

The LLGA programme has been recognised by leading global organisations, including the Clinton Global Initiative and the UN Global Compact Cities Programme.

Full details and contact information in regard to the challenge can be found here http://ccdu.govt.nz/living-labs-global-awards

More information on the LLGA programme: http://www.llga.org/Pilots