

EY tech gong for lighting pioneer

LUKE GRIFFITHS

SOUTH Australian businessman Ray Dennis has been named as EY's Entrepreneur of the Year in the technology category.

The national award, presented last night at Sydney's Star Casino, recognised Dr Dennis for his innovation over three decades as founder of specialist manufacturer Lightforce Australia. It follows his success at the regional awards in August.

Lightforce was the first lighting company to patent polycarbonate driving lights and now deals with some of the world's largest car manufacturers in providing aftermarket lighting products, exporting to more than 50 countries.

Additionally, its wholly owned US-based Nightforce Optics business produces rifle scopes that are used on six continents.

"Lightforce has a formidable reputation as a global leader in its field," the EY judges said.

Dr Dennis also owns the Paroo Pastoral Company, a vast landholding in SA and northwestern NSW.

Aspen Medical's Dr Andrew Walker and Mr Glenn Keys were jointly named as overall Entrepreneur of the Year.

The pair will travel to Monaco mid next year to compete against more than 60 other national winners.

Other category winners last night were Tim Gurner (emerging), Bec Scott (social), Radek Sali (industry), and Manildra Group's Honan family (family business).