

# Emerging Industries Award



## **Katie Donaldson**

*Praxis Aeronautics / Managing Director*

Katie Donaldson joined her brother, Cameron, at the helm of solar technology company Praxis Aeronautics in 2018, following more than a decade in the interior design industry.

When she did she brought with her a healthy dose of disregard for the rules, willingness to take strategic risks and unrelenting desire to face challenges head on – all traits that have stood her in good stead as she has steered the fledgling business from start-up to scale-up.

Praxis has developed a process of capturing solar cells in composite material to increase the flight time of unmanned aerial systems. The technology has so far been used in solar powered wings for unmanned aerial vehicles and has potential for a number of other applications – including in electric vehicles.

As managing director, Katie has positioned Praxis's virtually weightless solar technology firmly in the defence sector, landing global commercial contracts in the small-unmanned aerial systems and unmanned surface vessel markets.

She has also formed strong links with the state's three big universities, with a mind to keeping manufacturing in South Australia.

Beyond her work with Praxis, Katie's long-term goal is to form a coalition of defence companies willing to pledge a percentage of their profits to soldier care and rehabilitation.

*The Emerging Industries Award is presented by Piper Alderman.*