



Media Release

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SCHLOT Live cane loss monitor wins major US innovation award and proves local worth in Tully trials

Queensland engineering and research firm Norris Energy Crop Technology (NorrisECT) are proud to announce their world-first SCHLOT Live cane loss monitoring system has been selected as a 2021 AE50 award winner by the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE).

The AE50 Awards recognise the year's top 50 innovations globally in agricultural technology as submitted to the ASABE and selected by an international panel of engineering experts.

SCHLOT Live is the world's first cane loss monitoring system to provide a real-time suite of complete cane loss information to harvester operators, opening the door to multimillion-dollar cane loss recoveries in the Australian market alone.

NorrisECT Director Stuart Norris said winning an AE50 was an honour for the SCHLOT Live team, reflecting the hard work and innovative thinking that has gone into its development.

"SCHLOT Live is the culmination of over 20 years of field research, data analysis, and engineering innovation," Stuart said.

"We've started with a blank sheet of paper to overcome what has been regarded up until now an unsolvable problem, and to launch the product commercially this year and also win a major international innovation award makes it a very special year.

"What is particularly exciting at this point is the huge growth we see in the use of data in maximising profitability in the sugar supply chain moving forward.

"We see the potential and scope of the SCHLOT Live system expanding significantly over the coming seasons."

Locally, trials arranged by Tully Cane Growers, Tully Sugar Limited and supported by industry research body Sugar Research Australia put SCHLOT Live to the test, verifying the accuracy and effectiveness of the data driven system.

Tully Cane Growers Manager Peter Lucy said that the benefit of a system like SCHLOT was the insight into the value chain it gave to both harvesting contractors and growers.

“There are many experienced contractors doing a very good job during harvest,” Peter said.

“With the data from SCHLOT the farmer and harvester operator now have solid information that better reflects the value each is bringing to the table.”

“Farmers want to see that their contractor is doing the best job possible, and contractors can prove that they’re doing the best job for their customer.”

NorrisECT Principle Engineer Chris Norris said that while he wasn’t surprised by the results from the Tully trials, it was good that local industry bodies were taking the opportunity to verify for themselves what the data said was happening.

“We came in with a good set of results and they match our predictions pretty closely,” Chris said.

“In the past the results of trials like these would often get oversimplified or misconstrued, and operators would end up coming away with the wrong message, maybe something like ‘you must slow down to do a better harvest’.

“What we can show them in real time, for example, is that yes maybe slowing early in the day is beneficial due to the dew or other factors, but as the day progresses you can maybe do a better job moving faster and can finish the block with less hours in the cab without increasing losses.

“We’ve never been able to share this information in a useable way before, and we’re looking forward to rolling it out in a much bigger way in 2021.”

(ENDS)

Norris ECT is a small, highly experienced family owned agricultural engineering and consulting firm based in Brisbane. Established in 2009 in response to international demand for our services, Norris ECT are active in nearly all major sugar growing regions around the world.

SCHLOT Live is the first product of its kind to be introduced to the market. Using cutting edge data and algorithms, SCHLOT gives harvester operators real time accurate feedback on harvesting performance, allowing for a globally unprecedented level of waste minimisation and profit recovery.

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