

Software building success

Winner YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR

MATTHEW Camenzuli was never cut out for academia.

The 28-year-old software designer spent a year at Sydney University, but by the age of 19 he'd had enough.

"I didn't like it. I studied maths and stats," he said.

"I didn't like the culture very much. Anyway, I had a good job in hi-tech manufacturing."

Camenzuli, the co-founder of Companion Systems, was named Young Entrepreneur of the Year in the Western Sydney Industry Awards last month.

Camenzuli founded Companion Systems in 2002 with no outside financial backing.

Having seen an opening for specialised construction workflow management software in the building industry, he and his brother-in-law set about convincing builders more used to hand-lining hammers and saws, that they should be using Companion Systems' software on their computers.

The software manages construction workflow from pre-site to maintenance, tracking the performance of the business and its subcontractors resulting in pro-

ductivity improvements of up to 30 per cent.

"Together with our customers, building industry and technology partners we design and deliver innovative solutions to construction-related problems," he said.

In 2005, after three years of slow progress and, in Camenzuli's words, "a real salary sacrifice", On Site Companion 2005 was launched with marketing help from Fujitsu and the Housing Industry Association (HIA).

Clients include McDonald Jones in the Hunter Valley, Lily Homes in Liverpool, Jaxon in Perth and the Hotondo Group, Australia's largest franchise builder.

Camenzuli said the preferred medium for running his company's software was the Tablet PC, which could be used as easily onsite as in the office and had the advantage that it could be used as a pad and pencil as well as a portable computer.

"These computers are as easy to use on the job as in the office," he said.

He said Companions Systems had set up relationships with a number of manufacturers of Tablet PCs and several makes now offered OnSite Companion pre-installed.



Young Entrepreneur of the Year Matthew Camenzuli (second from left) with other winners at the awards night.