



OUTREACH and Education Officer for ICRAR, Kirsten Gottschalk looks on as Port Quinn explains a point to *New Sarawak Tribune*.

RODGER MANNING, Senior Bid Consultant of Bid Write speaking in an interview with *New Sarawak Tribune*. On the left is Joanne Armstrong, Marketing and Office Executive for Bid Write. PHOTOS: LESTER GERES

New innovations, new science at STEMfest

BY STEPHANIE JONG

BESIDES conferences, talks and workshops, the Festival of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEMfest) 2013 also sees local as well as international tertiary institutions, government sectors and private organisations related to education in science, mathematics, and technology demonstrating their expertise to visitors.

As we toured the venue, we noticed several exhibition booths worth checking out and stopped by to find out more on what they had to offer.

One of the booths belonged to International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research (ICRAR). This organisation is a joint venture between Curtin University of Technology and the University of Western Australia (UWA), with strong support from the West Australian and Australian governments.

According to Professor Peter Quinn, Director of ICRAR, there are 120 staff working on this project, including 45 graduates and researchers worldwide. ICRAR was established since 2009 and specialises in building powerful telescopes which enable one to see more than just stars and meteors.

Named Square Kilometre Array (SKA), this technology takes the form of a next generation radio telescope. It is created by advances in high performance computing and radio frequency engineering. It is also set to further revolutionise our understanding of the universe beyond existing planets.

ICRAR strives to work closely with research and industry partners throughout Australia, Europe, and the rest of the world. They focus on anything related to galaxy formation and evolution, data intensive astronomy, as well as advanced antenna engineering.

Targeted for completion by 2024, the SKA is slated to be the world's largest and most sensitive radio telescope. ICRAR foresees thousands of high-tech telescope dishes and millions of static antennas spreading across two continents - Australia and Africa.

Another stand-out was the booth by Australia-based Bid Write - a specialist consultancy firm that brings together tender request and tender response expertise in an organisation, to help clients buy better or win more.

Founded in Perth in 2008 by



ABOVE: PROFESSOR Peter Quinn, Director of ICRAR.

LEFT: PROF Quinn showing a video featuring advance telescopes and space exploration technology in an interview with *New Sarawak Tribune*.

owners David Lunn and Nigel Dennis, Bid Write is a niche firm at the forefront on tendering best practice, globally.

Met at their booth in Unimas yesterday, Rodger Manning, Senior Bid Consultant explained, "We provide support for organisations in writing tenders, proposals, and grants. We help them understand their customers' needs and what they want to achieve. We assist them in looking for projects to fund as well as come up with competitive proposals and strategies based on their customers' needs."

Bid Write consists of a team of bidding professionals with a variety of backgrounds and experiences, including engineering, science, technology, education, procurement, business, corporate finance, environmental studies, research, communications, and government grants.

As part of STEMfest, Rodger conducted a tender development workshop yesterday, focusing on four key factors of tendering success.

There are more booths with many things to see and experience at STEMfest 2013 in Unimas. Want to discover more? Head on to Unimas DeTAR Putra Convention Centre any day before Oct 11 to explore a world of progressive and sophisticated technology. This festival starts from 8.30am till 5pm daily. You will be fascinated by a number of inventions displayed!

noteworthy...



Visitors to STEMfest 2013 are invited to write down their email address or drop their name card into the box provided at the Bid Write exhibition booth during the event, to stand a chance of winning Tender Ted, the cuddly brown teddy bear from luxury retailer Harrods. PHOTO: LESTER GERES

