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WA TECH COMPANY TO REVOLUTIONISE GLOBAL CRANE SAFETY & EFFICIENCY WITH \$5M INVESTMENT FROM BLACKBIRD

Roborigger, a Perth-based company that develops the award-winning wireless load controlling system that allows crane operators to remotely control and release the loads, has raised \$5 million in a Series A funding round with Blackbird Ventures.

The Roborigger technology was first developed in 2016, with its early prototypes gaining the interest of construction giant Multiplex and oil and gas producer Woodside Petroleum.

Its founder Derick Markwell said this early traction led to them working closely with Multiplex and Woodside as development partners and Roborigger systems being used commercially since 2018.

The company has now built 18 commercial units from its production facility in Wangara near Perth

Roborigger technology allows crane operators to maintain control of the loads without requiring ropes and workers holding them. This effectively keeps personnel away from under the lifted loads and lifting equipment, reducing or eliminating time spent in the danger zone.

Whilst the safety benefits alone are the major drawcard for a lot of companies, Roborigger also significantly improves the overall efficiency by reducing cycle times and extending the operating window in windy conditions.

With interests pouring in from major global companies in renewable energy, oil and gas, port operations, construction and mining, Markwell said the company recognised there is a massive potential for Roborigger technology in the overseas market.

“Our biggest challenge is building a capability to address all of these requirements in a short timeframe as most companies want to use Roborigger in regions where we have not yet established a support network.”, said Markwell.

“This funding from Blackbird will allow us to speed up our technology development for the overseas market, obtain the government approvals to operate in the overseas regions and set up the support network”.



Blackbird co-founder and partner, Rick Baker, said the firm is excited to be backing Roborigger.

“It is a great example of using robots to make dangerous jobs safer. It has an opportunity to become the de facto standard for safe crane lifting around the world.”

Markwell said his company is thrilled with this investment.

“We believe this signals the industry’s confidence in Roborigger not only to revolutionize safety, but also in its massive potential to digitize crane lifting data”, added Markwell, highlighting the internet-connected tracking software that comes with Roborigger.

The built-in software collects data from every lift including time, weight, and the location of the loads being lifted. Users can access this data from a web browser on their phones or computers.

“This means the loads can be tracked real-time and the efficiency of operations can be analysed and improved.”

The company is currently working very closely with Curtin University to further equip this Internet-of-Things capability with pattern and event recognition, giving Roborigger the ability to identify loads and recognise and detect human bodies below the load where they should not be during operation.

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[About Roborigger Pty Ltd](#): Roborigger is a company based in Perth that has developed an inertial wireless load controlling system to rotate and orient crane loads and to collect data on lifting operations.

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[About Blackbird Ventures](#): Blackbird Ventures is a Venture Capital firm with \$1 billion of funds under management. We back ambitious Australian and New Zealand founders to global scale businesses.