



# Volvo service teams compete

**Volvo service teams compete in first World Championship. A team of Melbourne based Volvo representatives were centre stage recently as Volvo's VISTA 2007 competition was decided in Gothenburg, Sweden.**

The event was held on 26 June in the form of a World Championship for the first time in its history. In all, more than 3200 teams comprising a total of 12,000 competitors took part in the training and qualification stages of VISTA 2007 with five teams from Australia initially competing for the coveted crown.

VISTA, the world's largest competition held for service personnel, celebrates its 30th anniversary this year, while 2007 also marks the 50th year since the event was first held by Volvo. Reflecting the growth of VISTA over the years, the 2007 jubilee year competition was a global event with Team Skywalker from Sweden earning the title of World Champions. VISTA 2007 commenced in October 2006 with the first of three theoretical rounds, in which 3245 teams numbering almost 12,000 competitors assembled at 1010 dealerships in 68 countries to solve truck and bus problems.

All of the teams competed in a further two theoretical rounds, with results reducing the field to 160 teams for the regional semi-finals. This stage of the competition was based on theoretical and practical assignments that were carried out in March-April throughout eight cities in five parts of the world.

This yielded the final selection of 28 teams from 24 countries including one from Australia - the absolute

cream of Volvo's worldwide service network - going forward to contest the World Championship title. The successful Australian team comprised of four representatives from CMV Truck & Bus in Springvale, Victoria. Wesley Fernandez, Simeon Bommershein, Olivia Steers and Tony Hughes were amongst the competitors who journeyed to Sweden to compete.

At the Volvo Trucks Training Centre in Gothenburg, the 28 finalists spent a complete day taking on 14 difficult practical tests. The competition was intense, with the smallest possible margin separating the German and Danish teams that came second and third respectively. Staffan Jufors, President and CEO of Volvo Truck Corporation, sees major advantages in the competition.

"In effect, VISTA is a comprehensive training program for all of our service personnel, but in the form of an exciting competition," he says. "We estimate that VISTA 2007 totalled a training input of 275,000 hours. "Volvo must offer its customers the best service in the world and VISTA reflects that high objective.

It helps to enhance the status of the service trade and enables us to attract the best talents into our workshops." July 2, 2007 Captions: 1. An Australian team comprised from CMV Truck & Bus in Springvale competed for the World Championship title. The team members were Wesley Fernandez, Simeon Bommershein, Olivia Steers and Tony Hughes. 2.

Team Skywalker from Sweden on their way to taking the first VISTA World Championship.



*Team Skywalker from Sweden on their way to taking the first VISTA World Championship.*