



[Telecom helps students win national title](#)

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Eight secondary school students, six Telecom mentors, two business challenges and 48 hours – that was the Enterprise in Action challenge this weekend. The challenge brings together 80 of the top Lion Foundation [Young Enterprise](#) students from around the country to compete with the hope of making it through to the Young Enterprise Global challenge. Each team is hosted by a corporate and this year, for the first time, Telecom people rolled up their sleeves and got involved.

'Team Telecom', made up of Year 11-13 students from around the country, included those who flew for the first time to get to Auckland for the challenge and even those from as far away as Riverton, Southland who'd never travelled past Christchurch. Telecom's involvement was organised by [Ben Richmond](#) who was joined by a team of Telecom mentors – [Harriet Muir](#), [Brodie Kingstone](#), [Andrew Ridler](#), [Mariam El Beshlawi](#) and [Lynne le Gros](#).

Ben says about the weekend:

"As a Young Enterprise Scheme (YES) alumni, I was really keen to be involved in this competition. I know the value I gained from the programme as a student and I really wanted to be able to give something back. Telecom is passionate about fostering young talent and it was great to play a part in doing this on behalf of the company."



After an incredibly long and hectic Saturday working on the warm up challenge, the Global Challenge was launched by the Australian Deputy Prime Minister and NASA on Saturday night. From that moment, Team Telecom had till 5pm the next night to submit their winning business case and compete against the other New Zealand teams for a place in the global challenge.

Harriet Muir: "After such a long day on the Saturday, it was almost surprising to see the kids arriving at 8am the next morning rearing to go – but they were all running on adrenaline and excitement and ready to crack into the challenge."



The students were hosted at Telecom Place on day two - an experience they really enjoyed. One of the most exciting parts of the day was when Chris Quin and Andy Hamilton, CEO of the [Icehouse](#), came along to see what the kids had been up to and give them much needed advice, encouragement and feedback.

Chris: "I was blown away by the commitment to nearly 48 hours solid of innovating, imagining, team working and then presenting a world-class initiative. As we head into a very different and exciting future the agility, innovation and passion these kids showed are exactly what we will need for our organisation. It was a privilege to participate."

After 12 hours of hard yakka, Team Telecom went up against their fellow New Zealand teams and sold their dream – to re-engage the youth of today in the space industry, through their concept of a travelling, interactive space exhibition. Following the presentations, the panel of judges, which included Lianne Dalziel, Labour MP, and Graham Shaw, Director – Xero, deliberated and came back with their decision - and what do you know, they were so blown away by Team Telecom that we won! Taking out the national challenge meant the team's presentation was submitted to the global challenge and went up against the 15 other international entries. Not only did Team Telecom win the national challenge, the team's Jake Michelson and Tehya Reardon were two of six students selected to travel to Bangkok in August to participate in the FedEx Global Trade Challenge.

On finding out she was successful, Tehya Reardon said, "[business] is what I want to do. People would kill to have half a minute with the people we're meeting – to be given this opportunity is just amazing."



And, on the topic of Telecom's involvement, Terry Shubkin, Chief

Executive of the Young Enterprise Trust, says; "For your first year, it was wonderful to see Team Telecom take out the top New Zealand prize. It's a credit to the mentors who worked with the students throughout the weekend. The students really enjoyed their weekend and learned a lot over the 48 hours and have also walked away with an extremely positive impression of Telecom as an organisation."

For all involved, it was an exciting, exhausting but very rewarding experience. According to Ben:

"The team of students impressed us all with their innovation and drive. If these are the entrepreneurs of New Zealand's future, I'm confident we're in good hands and proud Telecom can contribute to their development."

To see the weekend in action, check out the [NZ Herald](#), and a profile on team Telecom in the Massey University magazine [here](#).