



Humble beginnings: Joshua Nicholls (left) and his winning crew.

Picture: Wolter Peeters

Bright spark on a winner

By Vanessa Cork

BLACKTOWN company Platinum Electrical Contractors has won two top honours in Australia Post's awards for small business.

The company was named NSW-ACT small business of the year, as well as being handed the award for growth and management in NSW.

"It's just fantastic," said the company's owner and managing

director Joshua Nicholls when the win was announced in Sydney last Saturday night.

"It's a recognition of our business and of our team who've put in the hard yards."

The company was recently named runner-up for the Orix Award for the fastest growing small business, the only NSW company to be a finalist.

Mr Nicholls, when 22, set up the company in 2001 with two staff.

Three-and-a-half years later it boasts a turnover of more than \$1.5 million a year. "We have a young vibrant team, and the judges saw the growth in the company," Mr Nicholls said. "We want to challenge the industry stereotype that tradesmen are slack. We pride ourselves on being on time, every time.

Mr Nicholls said he plans to one day expand interstate.

"The future holds big things."