



# BUILDING 'THE BIGGEST PAVILION IN AUSTRALIA' FOR THE ROYAL MELBOURNE SHOWGROUNDS

<b>TITLE</b>	Royal Melbourne Showgrounds
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	Grand Pavilion
<b>LOCATION</b>	Melbourne, Australia
<b>COMPLETED IN</b>	2005
<b>FABRIC AREA</b>	13,250m <sup>2</sup>
<b>FABRIC TYPE</b>	PVC - Mehler FR1000
<b>ARCHITECT/CLIENT</b>	Jackson Architecture / Tensys

## ROYAL MELBOURNE SHOWGROUNDS MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

### The challenge – enclose a giant exhibition space cost-effectively

As part of a \$108 million redevelopment, the Royal Melbourne Showgrounds needed an enclosed venue for agricultural show days, exhibitions, concerts, and other events. But how do you enclose a 10,000m<sup>2</sup> exhibition pavilion without blowing the budget or creating a monstrous monthly lighting bill?

The answer – a big-top 27 metres high that has been dubbed 'the biggest tent in Australia'. Today this giant tensile membrane structure is the showground's centrepiece.

### The solution – an elegant big top with billowing curves

Our dramatic solution tensioned 13,250m<sup>2</sup> of PVC Fabric to create billowing curves over giant supporting legs. The light diffusing properties of the material allow filtered sunlight to stream through the roof. At night-time the tension membrane structure is beautifully illuminated, providing a stunning glowing effect that shows off its futuristic shape.

The use of tensile architecture for this pavilion roof had clear benefits. Not only was it much cheaper than a conventionally-built roof, it also makes excellent use of natural light and provides a distinctive focal point for visitors to the showgrounds.

