



NEW SOUTH WALES

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **Verity Firth MP**

**Minister for Women**

**Minister for Science and Medical Research**

**Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)**

**Minister Assisting the Minister for Climate Change, Environment & Water**

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Monday, 13 August 2007

### **NSW INVESTS IN WORLD-CLASS RESEARCH FACILITIES**

The NSW Government will provide \$15 million to help build the new modern facilities locally-based scientists and researchers need for testing their potentially groundbreaking ideas and 'world first' theories.

Minister for Science and Medical Research Verity Firth said this significant public investment will keep NSW at the forefront of scientific exploration and home to some of world's 'best and brightest' minds.

"Importantly, this investment of State money will directly secure a further \$100 million in contributions from the Commonwealth Government, universities and private industry," said Ms Firth.

"We are working closely with the Commonwealth Government, universities and industry to construct a network of cutting edge R&D infrastructure and expertise, building on the Government's previous investments.

"This network will benefit Australian companies working in manufacturing, telecommunications, medical devices, computing, pharmaceuticals and electronics."

The investment announced today comes from the NSW Government's Science Leveraging Fund, with the \$15 million being shared amongst seventeen new or expanded research facilities with strong industry links and based at six NSW universities.

The facilities include:

- A research dedicated cyclotron facility at the University of Sydney's Brain and Mind Research Institute – \$1 million.

This medical imaging facility for studying the behaviour and function of cells in humans and other animals will become a leading centre for discovery research in the area of disease diagnosis, pharmaceuticals, radiopharmaceuticals and drug-cell interactions.

- The Australian Microscopy and Microanalysis Research Facility for detailed imaging of biological and industrial materials, headquartered at the University of Sydney – \$4 million.

This expands the Nanostructural Analysis Network Organisation, previously funded by NSW Government, and will include Australia's only Laser Atom Probe of its type. The Probe is capable of visualising in three dimensions the structure of matter down to the atomic level and will provide unique insights into scientific and engineering challenges in areas from mining and minerals, to biology and medicine.

- An advanced materials research network located at Sydney's Australian Technology Park and spanning Macquarie, Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong universities, making NSW a leading centre for research into the next generation of telecommunications, entertainment devices and advanced coatings – \$3 million.
- The NSW node of the Australian National Fabrication Facility at the University of NSW, helping to create tomorrow's materials and devices in areas as diverse as electronics, information technology, medical devices and next-generation computers – \$2 million.
- The Universities of NSW and Southern Cross will host genomics facilities, providing the core of the Genomics NSW Network for the study of plant and human genetics – \$400,000.
- The Australian Proteome Analysis Facility, headquartered at Macquarie, providing expanded proteomics research capacity for human health, agricultural, food and environmental applications – \$2.6 million.
- The Bioanalytical Mass Spectrometry Facility and Systems Biology Centre at the University of NSW to analyse the functions of proteins and cellular chemistry in the processes of life and disease, underpinned by an integrated computational laboratory to study how the thousands of genes, proteins and chemicals interact in each biological cell – \$1 million.
- A biofuels research pipeline for the production of alternative vehicle fuel from plant and crop waste at the universities of NSW, Sydney and Macquarie – \$600,000.
- Protein production facilities at the University of NSW, helping our researchers invent future therapies for diseases – \$500 000.

"I congratulated both NSW universities and industry for their contributions to the development of these important research facilities and the partnerships that will directly lead to the employment and training of 500 highly skilled researchers and students," said Ms Firth.

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