

## Jodi McKay

Minister for Tourism  
Minister for the Hunter  
Minister for Science and Medical Research  
Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)



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### **NSW research firm Novotech secures \$22 million in drug research and development trial grants**

NSW Minister for Science and Medical Research Jodi McKay said the international success of Sydney-based drug research and development company Novotech confirms NSW's position as an international leader in drug and clinical development.

Ms McKay, who attended the BIO 2009 International Convention in Atlanta today, congratulated Novotech on attracting \$22 million worth of new projects to NSW in the past nine months alone.

"Novotech's performance has been outstanding given the current global economic crisis and enhances NSW's reputation as a high quality location for drug research and development," Ms McKay said.

"NSW's strength and competitive advantage in the science and medical research sector results in the State attracting almost half (42 per cent) of all trials conducted in Australia.

"This is a fantastic result for Novotech and for the science and medical research industries in NSW.

"It confirms our reputation as the leading hub for science and medical research in the Asia-Pacific."

Ms McKay said the NSW Government established the NSW Clinical Trials Business Development Centre to help attract research and clinical trial programs.

"It's crucial to take NSW's science and research sectors to the international marketplace," Ms McKay said.

"It gives us the opportunity to attract further investment and create new sales opportunities beyond the domestic Australian market."

Novotech CEO Alek Safarian said recent projects carried out by the company included 23 new multi-centre phase II and III clinical studies.

These involved a range of trials, including oncology, ophthalmology, central nervous system, cardiovascular, endocrinology and musculoskeletal diseases.

"The majority of these studies involve US and European-based biotechnology companies, some of whom are repeat clients of Novotech, and will run between now and 2014," Mr Safarian said.

"There's an increasing momentum building behind drug developers looking at the Asia Pacific region for their research and development programs.

"Given Australia's long history of involvement in global clinical trials, the country and NSW is ideally placed to be a gateway for expansion of clinical trial activity in the region as a whole."