



Department of State and
Regional Development



New South Wales Government

MEDIA RELEASE

NSW SCIENTISTS TOP NATIONAL INNOVATION AWARDS

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Two leading NSW innovators have received national science awards for achievements in their fields of research.

NSW had two winners in last week's (May 20) prestigious ATSE Clunies Ross 2009 Awards, the highest from any State.

Organised by the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE) Clunies Ross Foundation, the Awards are among Australia's most distinguished science medals, recognising the nation's highest achievements in taking science from the laboratory to the market where it can make a real difference.

It is a real accomplishment for NSW researchers to win two of the awards from this year's event.

Dr Chris Nicol from the Sydney-based National Information and Communications Technology Australia Centre of Excellence won for his work on mobile phone technology.

Dr Nicol's work involves world-leading integrated circuit research that impacts products such as cars and airplanes as well as mobile phones.

His ongoing achievements in the field also earned him the Computer Sciences category trophy in the 2008 NSW Scientist of the Year awards.

Professor Hugh Durrant-Whyte, who is the director of the Australian Centre for Field Robotics based at the University of Sydney, received a Clunies Ross award for his cutting-edge work in robotics.

Professor Durrant-Whyte's research has put NSW on the world map of robotics research. He and his team are presently working with national and international partners on a range of exciting robotic applications.

The NSW Government's support of science and medical research has resulted in significant boosts to Commonwealth grants and funding from other sources.

The State's \$40 million Science Leveraging Fund has so far allocated \$27 million, which has helped mobilise \$171 million in cash from the Commonwealth and \$355.9 million in cash and kind from other partners.

Last year, the NSW Government's \$20 million investment through the Medical Research Support Program attracted a further \$66 million Federal funding and \$26 million from other sources.



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This investment results in attracting international research business opportunities, building our research and life science sector and driving innovation and jobs growth for NSW.

The NSW Government is also rewarding and recognising the work of the State's talented scientists through the NSW Scientist of the Year awards.

For more information on the NSW Scientist of the Year awards go to www.osmr.nsw.gov.au