Australian Government
Department of Education, Science and Training

CRCs: SUCCESS THROUGH INNOVATION

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INTRODUCTION

from the Minister for Science

In December 2003 I announced the ninth selection round for the Cooperative Research Centres Programme.

An exhaustive evaluation of the programme was undertaken last year which determined that the objectives for the 2004 CRC Programme would be directed towards commercial, industrial and economic outcomes.

To be successful in this round, applicants must demonstrate that they have sound strategies for a "path to adoption" for their research. The strong involvement of end-users in all aspects of CRCs' activities is essential, and applicants have to describe how they would engage small to medium sized enterprises.

There has been strong interest in the 2004 Selection Round, with 52 applications lodged by the end of March and 33 of these invited to submit a full business case by 2 July.

Applications from existing CRCs for supplementary funding, submitted by the closing date of 28 May, will boost these numbers further.

I am sure that the successful 2004 round applicants, likely to be announced by the end of the year, will build further on the achievements of the CRC programme.

Peter McGauran MP
Minister for Science

AUSTRALIA'S VAST Mineral Resources

The Cooperative Research Centre for Sustainable Resource Processing (CSRP) has been established to find better technological solutions for eliminating waste and emissions in the minerals mining and manufacturing cycle while enhancing business performance and meeting community expectations.

The Perth based CSRP headquarters were officially opened in December 2003 by the Hon. Daryl Williams, Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, representing Federal Minister for Science, the Hon. Peter McGauran.

The minerals industry and the Federal and State governments have committed $90.6 million in funding to the CSRP over the next seven years for research projects. These projects will involve Curtin University of Technology, the University of Queensland, University of Sydney, the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO), CSIRO Minerals and Central Tafe (WA).

CSRP Chief Executive Officer Stevan Green said the Centre provided an integrated and coordinated approach by industry, government and research institutions to the challenges of creating a more sustainable future.

"Australia has vast mineral resources which have been critical to its growth and development over the past century," Mr Green said.

"However, the minerals industry, government and Australians in general recognise that if mining is to remain viable it must become even more sustainable by meeting greater environmental, business and public scrutiny.

"Australia is renowned for innovation in processing minerals and metals but we need to continue to look for even better ways of production. If we are to continue to be a relevant and responsible industry we must ensure that we are effectively and efficiently utilising resources.

"CSRP's goal is to find new technological solutions for progressively and systematically eliminating waste and emissions in the minerals cycle while at the same time enhancing business performance and meeting community expectation.

"The minerals industry is no longer about picks and shovels and holes in the ground. It is now a high tech industry and will become even more so in the future to meet ever increasing sustainability targets."

For further information:

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