



## Forum for European – Australian Science and Technology cooperation

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www.france.net.au/feast  
**FEAST Newsletter #4**  
**October 2001**

### Executive Manager Appointed

After a thorough selection process, Michael Parker has been appointed the Executive Manager of FEAST as of 15 August 2001.

Michael has extensive experience in managing projects and organisations in both the private and public sectors. Until recently he was seconded from the Australian Department of Industry & Regional Development (as it was then) to the Inter-Regional Secretariat of IMS International (Intelligent Manufacturing Systems).

Initially as Vice President and subsequently President of the Corporation, he was responsible for the strategy, direction and management of the IMS Program in cooperation with an International Steering Group and Regional Secretariats in Australia, Canada, Korea, Japan, EU, Switzerland and the USA.

Prior to that he worked as a team leader on a task force analysing the correlation between national research capability and economic outcomes in the Australian Public Service. Michael is also currently a consultant to the US National Institute for Standards and Technology and the Manufacturing Science & Technology Center in Tokyo on policy and liaison issues related to the International IMS initiative.

The Executive Manager's position is a part time one at present.

### Location

The location of the FEAST Secretariat is one that has been under discussion for quite some time. It is important that FEAST be, and be seen to be, an independent body but maintain synergies and develop relationships with the scientific and academic communities as well as industry.

Over the next few months, Michael will be reviewing the operational and strategic requirements for FEAST and preparing a business plan which will include consideration of the most appropriate permanent location for the FEAST Secretariat. In the meantime, Michael will operate the FEAST Secretariat from his current offices at the Institution of Engineers in Barton with the official contact details of the FEAST Secretariat as follows:

Email: (interim) [michael@ieaust.org.au](mailto:michael@ieaust.org.au)  
Tel: (02) 6273 4823 (+61 2 Int)  
Fax: (02) 6273 4848

Postal: PO Box E303, Kingston, ACT 2604, Australia  
Street: Engineering House, 11 National Circuit, Barton, ACT 2600

### Web Site

We have registered the name: [www.feastonline.org](http://www.feastonline.org) and will be shortly migrating to this site once it has been sufficiently tested. A link will remain on the current web site for several months and an email will be sent to all registered members alerting them to the change as soon as it has been completed.

You will see that there have been several new inclusions on the website. Remember the Website is there, not just for the outside looking in but also for you, the Members. We have incorporated an Events Page and you are invited to send news of European-Australian Events to the Webmaster to include under this heading.

We have also included the publication *Bestoz* – the electronic news bulletin published by the French Embassy on Science & Technology in Australia. We would welcome other contributions of this nature

### Up and Coming Events

**Australian Research Management Society (ARMS) Annual Conference**, 21-23 November 2001, Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, Sydney.

The French Embassy has sponsored a section in the session "International Partnerships and Best Practice" where FEAST will be discussed as a case study. For further information: <http://conferenceaction.com.au/arms2001/> or contact Anneke van Mosseveld on (02) 6773 3262 or [avanmoss@metz.une.edu.au](mailto:avanmoss@metz.une.edu.au)

**EU/Australia Workshop "How can ITS contribute to a Sustainable City"**, Friday 5 October, Sydney Convention & Exhibition Centre.

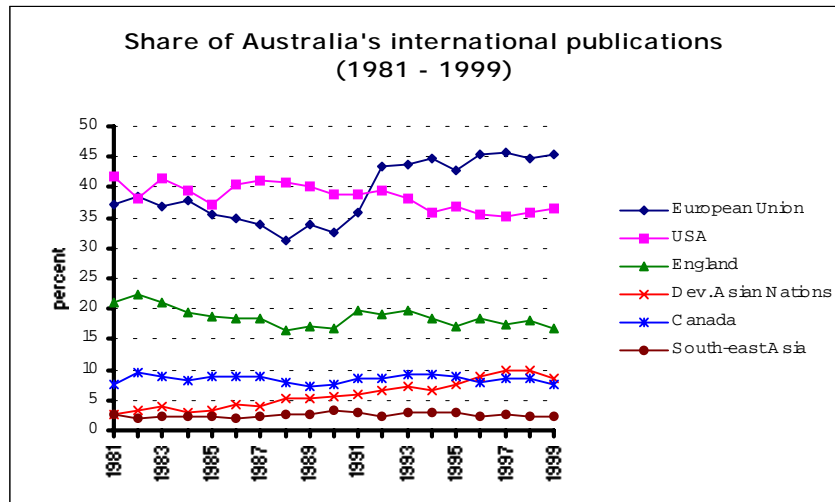
This half-day workshop takes place directly after the ITS (Intelligent Transport Systems) World Congress and is presented by the Warren Centre for Advanced Engineering. For more details: <http://www.itsworldcongress.org/itsite.htm?ancil1.htm> or Contact Fiona Hearne on (02) 9351 7205 or [fionah@eng.usyd.edu.au](mailto:fionah@eng.usyd.edu.au)

## Some indicators of the strength of the collaborative research relationship between Australia and the European Union

One of the objectives of FEAST is to highlight the existing extent of collaboration between Australia and the European Union. Two of the presentations given at FEAST1 are particularly noteworthy in this regard. The first is a paper presented by Linda Butler (Research School of Social Sciences, the Australian National University) at Workshop 1 on her work looking at joint publications in journal literature. The second is the keynote plenary address by Professor Vicky Sara (then Chair and now CEO of the Australian Research Council) on the work conducted by the ARC in establishing some baseline data on the relationship.

Through the work of the ANU Research Evaluation Policy and Project (REPP), all Australian publications (articles, notes and reviews) involving international collaboration in the Institute of Scientific Information main indices have been mapped from 1981 until 1999. The results of this for some selected groupings are summarised in the graph below, with three main messages apparent:

- Australia's overall international S&T collaboration has increased dramatically over the period – with a fivefold increase in publications involving international collaboration, resulting in over one-third of all Australian articles now involving international collaboration (11% in 1981).
- Within this total, collaboration with European Union researchers has increased at an even greater rate and by 1999 the EU accounted for 45% of all Australian articles involving international collaboration (up from 37% in 1981)<sup>1</sup>. This compares with a 37% for the USA (42% in 1981) and 9% for the developed Asian nations (Japan, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan). This indicates that the EU is Australia's premier international collaborator in Science and Technology.
- Within the EU, England is not surprisingly the main partner, although it has declined in relative importance from 21% in 1981 to 17% in 1999. Germany (9% in 1999) is the second most important European partner, followed by France (6%), the Netherlands and Sweden (4%), and Italy (3%).



The ARC's paper discusses the strengths of the European - Australian research relationship, from an Australian perspective and particularly its own. It reviews the status of the relationship, by considering inputs such as formal agreements for collaboration between national governments, research agencies, and research institutions, and funding programs offering the possibility of collaboration. The paper also considers the benefits of collaboration and the strengths of Australian and European research systems that will underpin future collaboration.

Aggregating the data provided on the major ARC project granting schemes suggests that for these schemes around 56% of all funding<sup>2</sup> to projects involving international collaboration was for projects with European partners (compared to just 45% in 1998)

The full 28pp paper is available at: [http://www.france.net.au/feast/activity/feast1/vicki\\_sara.pdf](http://www.france.net.au/feast/activity/feast1/vicki_sara.pdf)

<sup>1</sup> Where an article involves more than one EU collaborators it is only counted once.

<sup>2</sup> Amount funded in first year of the projects