



Forum for European-Australian Science and Technology cooperation

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Latest News

CERC wins EU International Masters Programme Grant

A tender to coordinate a major International Relations Masters exchange program, called by the European Union and DEST, has been won by the Contemporary Europe Research Centre (CERC). The program will foster a European-Australian Asia Pacific Nexus, with a focus on the creation and co-ordination of specialised graduate courses dealing with issues between Australia and Europe. European and Australian Masters students will also be provided with the opportunity to enter semester-long exchange programs.

The University of Melbourne (lead institution), the University of Queensland and Griffith University were chosen for the Australian part of the grant. Alongside European partners, the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris, Sciences Po (Sc Po- Lead Institution) France, the University of Birmingham and the University of Trento, Italy. CERC will co-ordinate the Australian side of the project, headed by CERC's Director, Dr Philomena Murray.

Further details can be found at the CERC website: <http://www.cerc.unimelb.edu.au>

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Switzerland gains full access to the 6th Framework Programme from the 1st of January 2004

Switzerland and the European Union have signed an updated accord aimed at boosting research cooperation. Swiss participation in Framework projects to date has involved universities (14%), companies (18%) and public research centres and bodies (20%). Swiss Scientists, along with German, French, British and Italian partners, have researched diverse fields, such as Information Technologies, Quality of Life, Environmental Sciences and Sustainable Development.

Under the terms of the amended agreement, Swiss scientists will be able to lead EU projects. Unlike their "project by project" participation in the Fifth framework Programme in 1998-2002. In return, Switzerland, which is not an EU member, will increase financial contributions to an EU research fund. The agreement enters into force retroactively from the 1st January 2004.

For more information on the Sixth Framework Programme of the European Union, please visit: http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/fp6/index_en.html

For more information on Swiss participation in the framework programme, please visit: <http://www.euresearch.ch>

WA aquaculture expert in Europe

Dr Sagiv Kolkovski, Senior Research Scientist with the Department of Fisheries, Western Australia recently travelled to Portugal and Spain, under the Scientific visits to Europe program managed by the Australian Academy of Science and funded by the Department of Education, Science and Training's Science and Technology Networks (ISTN), a component of the Innovation Access Program. Dr Kolkovski will conduct research into the development of microparticulated diets as replacement for live food for fish larvae.

The use of live food organisms for culturing marine fish larvae is currently considered obligatory for successful culture, but their use is costly and more importantly, supply and nutritional properties are inconsistent. An alternative to the live food organisms is micro particulate diets that offer 'off-the-shelf' availability, consistent nutritional value and low cost compared to live food production costs. Reducing use of live food organisms by using micro particulate diets, as partial or full replacement will improve the consistency in the larval feeds supply and ensures stable fish larvae supply. Dr Kolkovski's research project focused on the development of these diets for flat fish currently cultured in Europe.

The visit gave the Australian researcher access to two major R&D centres that are considered to be in the first line of research in the area of marine fish larvae physiology, the Center for Marine Sciences at the Universidade do Algarve in Portugal and the Instituto de Ciencias Marinas de Andalucia in Spain. The visit also offered Dr Kolkovski the opportunity to conduct experiments with a fish species that currently is not cultured in Australia. This fish species is similar to several flat fish in Australia with potential for aquaculture. These alliances between Australian and European R&D centres and industries will enable the fast tracking of new developments in the field and address some of the problems that the aquaculture industry is facing.

The Fifth Framework Programme – taking stock

The Science and Technology Agreement between Australia and the European Community was signed ten years ago this month - in February 1994. After two amendments, the Agreement now allows Australian researchers to take part in all the EC's thematic priority programmes. This co-operation started under the European Commission's Fourth Framework Programme for Science and Technology (FP4, 1994-98) and continued under the Fifth Framework Programme (1998-2002).

In the years since the Agreement was first signed, Australian participation in the Framework Programmes have grown steadily. The following chart shows the obvious increase in co-operation under FP5, and the increase in dollar value of total collaboration.

**Profile of EU-Australia collaboration in
S&T projects under the Framework programmes**

	Number of Projects	Total project value (million)	Number of Australian participants
FP5			
Under Framework Programme 5			
Full contractual partners	50	€16.14	58
Subcontractors	4	€2.54	4
Assistant contractors	1	€1.61	1
<i>Subtotal</i>	55	€210.29	63
Additional to Framework Programme			
Associate	8	€1.31	8
IMS projects	11	€3.58 (for 9 / 11 projects)	43
Other	4	€0.12 (for 6 / 8 projects)	4
<i>Subtotal</i>	23	over €64.01	55
TOTAL	78	over €274.30 mn	118

FP4			
Under Framework Programme 4			
Full contractual partners	30	ecu 29.90 (for 14 / 30 projects)	44
Subcontractors	4	ecu 10.52	4
<i>Subtotal</i>	34	over ecu 40.42	48
Additional to Framework Programme			
Associate	6	not known	7 or more
Close co-operation	6	ecu 3.10 (for 2 / 6 projects)	6 or more
G8 Information Society Project	6	not known	6 or more
IMS project	7	ecu 30.68 (for 4 / 7 projects)	22
International project involving AUS & FP4	3	ecu 19.50 (for 1 / 3 projects)	3 or more
Network of Excellence	2	ecu 1.10	2 or more
Unsure	4	not known	4 or more
<i>Subtotal</i>	34	over ecu 54.38	50 or more
TOTAL	68	over ecu 94.80 mn	98 or more

• ecu – 'European Currency Unit'

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European Partnerships in Australian funding rounds

Australian researchers are not just heavily involved in European Framework Programmes – projects with European Partners feature incredibly strongly in successful funding applications to the Department of Education, Science and Training. The Department's Innovation Access Programme is about to announce its fifth round of funding, and if previous rounds are anything to go by, then a very sizeable slab of grant funds will be awarded to projects with European partners.

IAP selection outcomes

	Round One 2002-03	Round Two 2002-03	Round Three 2002-03	Round Four 2003-04
No. of Projects	6	20	18	12
<i>Projects with European Partners</i>	4	13	11	8
Money granted	\$401,766	\$2,677,325	\$3,415,270	\$2,007,751
<i>Granted to Projects with European Partners</i>	\$319,800 (79.6%)	\$2,241,835 (83.7%)	\$3,019,514 (88.4%)	\$1,821,751 (90.7%)

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The Sixth Framework Programme – Results so far

Under FP6, Australian researchers have already made a great start. 60 project proposals with an Australian participant were included in the first call across all thematic priorities. Of those 60, 12 are currently at the contract negotiation stage. Another 6 were classified as highly commended and will hopefully be taken up during the life of the Framework Programme as more funds become available. On top of this a further 6 successful projects have Australian participation at sub-contractor level. The areas of success were in Energy, Food Quality, Environment, IST (with five projects being successful), Life Sciences & Biotechnology and Nanotechnology.

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Marie Curie Fellowships

The Sixth Framework Programme also opened the doors to Australian researchers and Australian research institutions in another way. It opened up the Marie Curie Fellowships to everyone, no matter their nationality, age or discipline. The Marie Curie Scheme now focuses on individual incoming and outgoing fellowships, for third country researchers to come to Europe and for European researchers to go anywhere in the world where excellence is demonstrated. Research Training Networks can cross country, discipline and age barriers and there are special programs for early stage researchers as well as the more experienced.

Under the first call for proposals, 6 Australian researchers will go to Europe to take up a three-year fellowship and 7 Europeans will come to Australia. This is a wonderful

start. What we have also discovered, thanks to the research skills of Dr. Massimiliano Tani from ADFA, is that there are currently 9 ex-Marie Curie Fellows working in Australia. It seems that Europeans have already discovered the excellence of Australian science institutions. In order to encourage these researchers to remain in touch, FEAST is supporting the establishment of a Marie Curie Alumni Group and associated website.

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British High Commission collate a list of Future Science and Technology Events

Jessica Shaw from the British High Commission has collated a 'Forward Look Diary' of Science and Technology related events. This Calender lists a number of up and coming conferences, workshops, symposiums and festivals that will take place in Australia this year. Ms Shaw would like to maintain the Diary on an ongoing basis and would welcome any information on future events.

To contact Jessica Shaw at the British High Commission please email: Jessica.Shaw@fco.gov.uk. The 'Forward Look Diary' can be found on the FEAST website at: www.feast.org/docs/AustConferenceDiary.xls

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ANU appoints Professor Lawrence Cram as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

The Australian National University has appointed one of the Executive Directors of the Australian Research Council (ARC), Professor Lawrence Cram, to lead its research management division. "Professor Cram will bring a new dimension to the University's research management, and will work to expand opportunities for commercial partnerships, strengthen our competitiveness for research funding and most importantly, to ensure the ANU remains relentless in its pursuit of excellence" said ANU Vice-Chancellor Professor Ian Chubb.

Professor Cram will replace Professor John Hearn, who will take up an appointment at the University of Sydney.

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DITR and the FEAST 'Networking for Excellence' Conference

The Australian Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources (DITR) supported last November's FEAST 'Networking for Excellence' conference by funding Plenary Session 6 "Technology Diffusion - Australia and Europe's experiences". In particular, DITR funded the visit to Australia of two FEAST conference speakers: Professor Baruch Raz, Director MTN Technology Ltd, Israel, who spoke on "Policy Aspects of Technological Diffusion - an International Comparison"; and Dr Claudine Janes, OSEC Business Network, Switzerland, who spoke on "An overview of the Innovation Relay Centres Network and beyond". In addition, Ms Tricia Berman, General

Manager of DITR's Innovation Policy Branch, spoke on Australian experiences in industry innovation.

To encourage the development of international linkages, DITR also organised a week-long visits program for Professor Raz and Dr Janes to various innovation diffusion centres. These included the Welding Technology Institute of Australia, the Australian Technology Park, InnovationXchange, Smartlink/University of South Australia, Industry Techlink, RedCentre, and the Industrial Research Institute of Swinburne University of Technology, as well as State Government departments, venture capitalists and high technology firms. Since the conference, OSEC and InnovationXchange have reached agreement to co-operate on the bilateral sourcing of technology transfer deals, with a Memorandum of Understanding to be signed shortly.

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ARC appoints new Executive Director for Physics, Chemistry and Geoscience

The Australian Research Council (ARC) has appointed a new Executive Director, eminent physical scientist and creator of Electron Momentum Spectroscopy (EMS), Professor Erich Weigold. Professor Weigold will replace Professor Lawrence Cram as Executive Director for Physics, Chemistry and Geoscience.

For more information about Professor Weigolds appointment or about ARC, please visit the ARC website: <http://www.arc.gov.au>

Future Events

CRCA Annual Conference 2004

The Annual Conference of the Cooperative Research Centres Association will be held from the 8th to 10th June 2004 at the Adelaide Convention Centre. The theme is CRCs: from strength to strength - sharing experiences.

Details about the Program, sponsorship, and exhibition opportunities can be found at www.crca.asn.au/conference

Conference Secretariat:

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Irish Presidential Research Conferences

The Irish Presidency attaches great importance in advancing the creation of the European Research Area. To achieve these objectives, the Irish Presidency has

organised some influential research conferences, focusing on Sustainable Development and Research Excellence in the European Research Area.

A list of these up and coming research conferences during the term of the Irish Presidency can be found on our website at: www.feast.org/docs/irishConferences.doc

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Seminar- 'Biotechnology and the European Union'

Dr Andrew Tommey (Biotechnology Unit, Office of the Directorate General of Environment, European Commission) will present a seminar- "Biotechnology and the European Union", hosted by the Grain Growers Association, in conjunction with Agrifood Awareness Australia Limited.

Dr Tommey will discuss the current state of play of biotechnology and regulation in the European Union; the role and implications for the biotechnology industry, agricultural production and research; trade and international relations; and future developments.

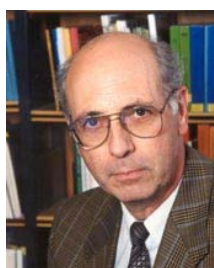
The time and venue details are:
9.30am, Wednesday 25 February 2004
CSIRO Discovery Lecture Theatre
Clunies Ross Street, Black Mountain, Canberra

Those wishing to attend are asked to RSVP to Agrifood Awareness Australia Limited via email: info@afaa.com.au or telephone: (02) 6273 9535.

Seminars will also be held in Brisbane, Perth and Adelaide.

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President of the German Alexander von Humboldt Foundation visiting Australian Universities



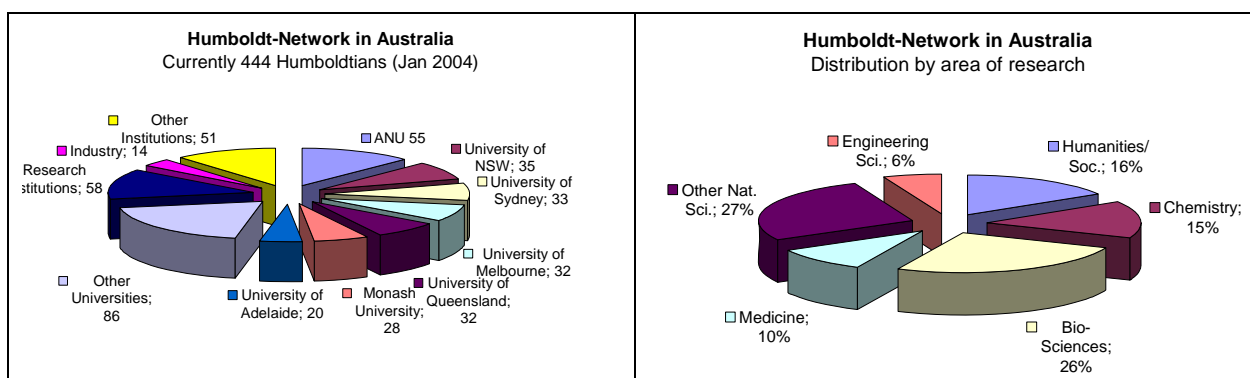
From the 24th February to 2nd March 2004, a delegation from the German Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, headed by its President, Professor Wolfgang Fruehwald (left), will visit Australian Universities and research institutions in Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra. Part of the delegation will stay on for visits to universities in Adelaide and Perth from the 2nd to 5th March.

The program of the visit includes talks and discussions with management and research counterparts at participating Universities around Australia. In Canberra the delegation will visit ANU and the University of Canberra and will take part in a round table discussion at the Academy of Science on experiences and future perspectives of German-Australian scientific cooperation, co-chaired by Chief Scientist Robin

Batterham and AvH President Prof Fruehwald. Part of the delegation will liaise with representatives of FEAST.

The visit is part of the Foundation's activities aimed at establishing, promoting and sustaining scientific cooperation with Germany worldwide. In the 50 years since its establishment, the AvH has developed a global "Humboldt-Network" of about 23000 Humboldt Fellows in 130 countries and in all fields of research, including up to now, 35 Nobel Prize winners.

Australia is one of the most successful "Humboldt Territories", so far accounting for 480 Humboldt Fellows (428 research scholarships and 52 research prize winners, of whom currently 444 are living in Australia); in addition, there have been 74 young German researchers doing research in Australia supported by the AvH (Feodor Lynen research scholarships). The diagrams below show the distribution of Australian Humboldt Fellows within Australia and over the different fields of research, the focus being on life sciences.



For further inquiries please contact Antonia Petra Dhein at the AvH press office:

Phone: +49 (0) 228 833 257,

Email: presse@avh.de or

The German Embassy in Canberra:

Phone: (02) 6270 1911

Email: info1@germanembassy.org.au

Website: www.germanembassy.org.au

For more information on the Alexander von Humboldt-Foundation please consult

their website: <http://www.humboldt-foundation.de>

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Seminar series on the CORDIS website

With support from the Department of Education, Science and Training and assistance from the EC Delegation to Australia and NZ, FEAST will be holding a series of seminars on the opportunities presented by using and working with the CORDIS website: www.cordis.lu. Seminars will be held in Canberra, Sydney Melbourne and Brisbane in early April 2004. The presenters will also visit NZ for seminars there. Details will be circulated closer to the events or contact info@feast.org.

Grant Highlights

ARC Research Networks- Call for Applications

ARC's new Research Networks Program is now open for applications. The new program is designed to encourage collaborative approaches to research in interdisciplinary settings. The closing date for applications is the 22nd March 2004.

ARC Research Networks funding rules and application forms are now available through the ARC's website at <http://www.arc.gov.au>

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French-Australian Science and Technology programme (FAST) 2004

The new French-Australian Science and Technology programme (FAST) 2004 call for proposals is now OPEN and will close 21st March 2004.

FAST 2004 is a joint program between the French Embassy in Australia and the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST).

The objective of FAST is to promote and support scientific and technological cooperation between Australian and French researchers in both public and private sectors.

Each country contributes up to AU\$250,000 to provide financial assistance for workshops and collaborative projects. All fields are eligible except social sciences and humanities.

(FEAST-France members have already received details, via email on the 13th February 2004.)

Other FEAST-France activities include:

- French lessons for the research community sponsored at 66% by the French Embassy will start in Canberra, Melbourne and Brisbane (tbc) next April.
- The AFAS/FEAST-France Fellowship associated to the Victoria Fellowship: a new opportunity to foster scientific and technological exchanges between Victoria and France. The call for proposals is open and will close on the 15th April 2004.
- See the 2003 report on the FEAST-France activities and the draft of 2004 activities in the FEAST-France newsletter n°2.

For more information please visit:

- www.ambafrance-au.org/science/ or
- Become a member of FEAST-France by selecting this option in your FEAST online registration (you will then receive the FEAST-France newsletter and alert emails).

This is not a comprehensive list of funding opportunities available. Please consult funding agencies or check the [feast website](#) for further information under Australian and European Funding & Services.

Other News

FEAST says farewell to Sally Stewart

The FEAST Office would like to thank Sally Stewart for all her hard work and dedication in making FEAST what it is today, especially for her part in the success of the 'Networking for Excellence' Conference. Sally has recently moved on to another position. We wish Sally all the best for the future.

A recruitment program is currently underway to find a replacement for Sally.

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Are you planning to visit Brussels?

FEAST invites readers to advise us about any proposed visits to the European Commission in Brussels. Past visits by Delegations or Scientists have been well received and the Australian Mission to the EU in Brussels is keen to assist where possible. To inform FEAST please contact us at: info@feast.org

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Share Your Experiences

The FEAST office would like to hear from researchers including industry researchers currently or previously involved in European-Australian collaboration. Don't waste your valuable experience; consider sharing it with others through our newsletter.

Publication in our newsletter is free. Your contributions may be edited for clarity.

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FEAST would like to thank everyone who participated in this current newsletter and encourages anyone who would like to contribute to the next newsletter to contact us at email: info@feast.org