

ROUNDTABLE

A roundtable organized by the Embassy of France in Australia and the Forum for European-Australian Science and Technology Cooperation

12 NOVEMBER 2008
CANBERRA
SHINE DOME

AFFORDABLE LOW EMISSION ENERGY AND WATER



FRONTIER RESEARCH PERSPECTIVES FROM AUSTRALIAN AND FRENCH VIEWPOINTS

AFFORDABILITY PATHWAYS WILL BE DISCUSSED BY A PANEL OF INDUSTRY, ACADEMIC AND POLICY SPECIALISTS FROM FRANCE AND AUSTRALIA

Conference programme: www.feast.org/france

- ▶ **FOR POLICY MAKERS** — AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INCREASED UNDERSTANDING OF PATHWAYS TO GREATER AFFORDABILITY IN LOW EMISSION ENERGY AND WATER TECHNOLOGIES
- ▶ **FOR INDUSTRIALISTS** — AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT WITH INNOVATORS FROM FRANCE AND AUSTRALIA IN ORDER TO DEVELOP NEW PARTNERSHIPS
- ▶ **FOR ACADEMICS** — AN OPPORTUNITY TO START BUILDING NEW RELATIONSHIPS WITH BOTH AUSTRALIAN AND FRENCH COMPANIES



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The current French Presidency of the European Union provides a timely opportunity to further evolve French-Australian S&T cooperation, in so doing pointing the way to more generalised modes of international cooperation.

Intensified French-Australian cooperation over innovations targeting environmental sustainability represents an important opportunity of mutual interest. From an Australian perspective, France is a particularly compelling partner for such cooperation because French multinational corporations now play a major global role in the management of water and energy resources. Consequently, there is the scope for intensified cooperation in the low-emission energy and water areas. Australia and France have complementary strengths in engineering and S&T research. Engineering capability is critical to translating ideas that work at the laboratory or prototype level into reliable, cost effective and marketable products and services. Experience in solar energy systems has demonstrated, ideas and intellectual property alone are a necessary but not a sufficient condition to roll-out cleaner technologies as commercial products.

THE NEW FRONTIER: INTENSIFIED COOPERATION IN INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABILITY

A particular emphasis will be placed on scoping out the potential for enhanced cooperation over "low emission water" technologies: obtaining acceptable levels of water quality (e.g. potable re-use and/or desalination in urban environments) *without* pushing up greenhouse gas emissions. It is therefore important to consider ways in which jointly developed technologies, capability and intellectual property may be able to contribute to affordable solutions.

FRENCH-AUSTRALIAN LEADERSHIP IN FACILITATING INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION

Australia and France have played a key role in the evolution of arrangements for facilitating science and technology (S&T) cooperation between the European Union and those nations that have an S&T agreement with the European Union (known as Third Countries). The concept of a specialised unit devoted to facilitating S&T cooperation between Third Countries and Europe was an innovation made under French EU Presidency in the year 2000. This model, of which the *Forum for European-Australian Science and Technology cooperation* (FEAST) was the first implementation, has now been rolled-out far more widely and has become an established feature on the international S&T landscape. Indeed, during 2008 several new "FEAST-type units" will be supported under the *Seventh Framework Programme* – with additional support from Third Country governments.

THE ROUNDTABLE

A one day roundtable, to be held on Wednesday 12th November 2008, will provide an opportunity for industrialists, policy-makers and academic researchers to meet to consider options for intensified French-Australian cooperation in low emission energy and water technologies. In addition to awareness raising and networking, a key output will be the drafting, following the roundtable, of an agenda for French-Australian cooperation over affordable low emission energy and water solutions.

- ▶ **FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT
SCIENCE@AMBAFRANCE-AU.ORG**
- ▶ **PARTICIPATION FEE AUD55.00,
EARLY BIRD AVAILABLE**
- ▶ **REGISTRATION DETAILS AVAILABLE FROM:
www.feast.org/france**

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