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THE ROLE OF AUSTRALIAN- EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE AND INNOVATION SYSTEM: AN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT PERSPECTIVE

18 MARCH 2008

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KEY FACTORS IN THE AUSTRALIAN- EUROPEAN SCIENCE AND RESEARCH RELATIONSHIP

- ❖ Strong existing investment links;
- ❖ Growing strength of research collaboration linkages;
- ❖ Mutual recognition of similar challenges; and
- ❖ New Ministerial commitment to advance collaboration with Europe.





SIGNIFICANCE OF INVESTMENT

- ❖ Investment links into the EU are strong:
 - ❖ A\$74 bn in Australian direct investment into the EU as at December 2006.
- ❖ The EU is by far Australia's biggest foreign investor:
 - ❖ A\$107 bn in EU direct investment into Australia as at end of 2006.
- ❖ EU investors have interests in many of Australia's key science & technology sectors.



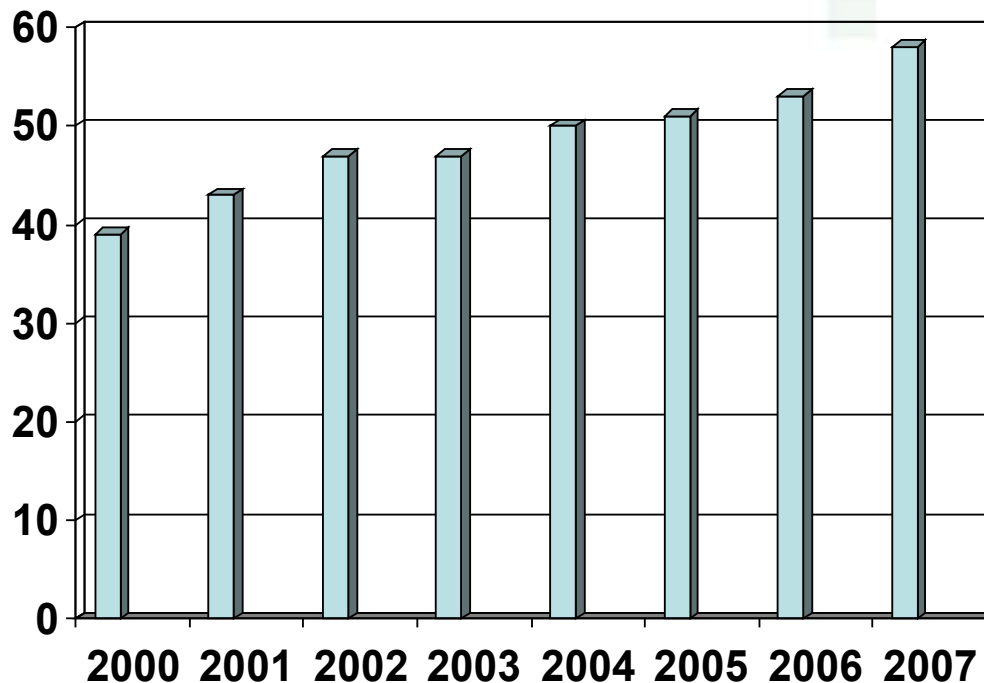


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GROWING STRENGTH OF SCIENCE & RESEARCH COLLABORATIVE LINKAGES

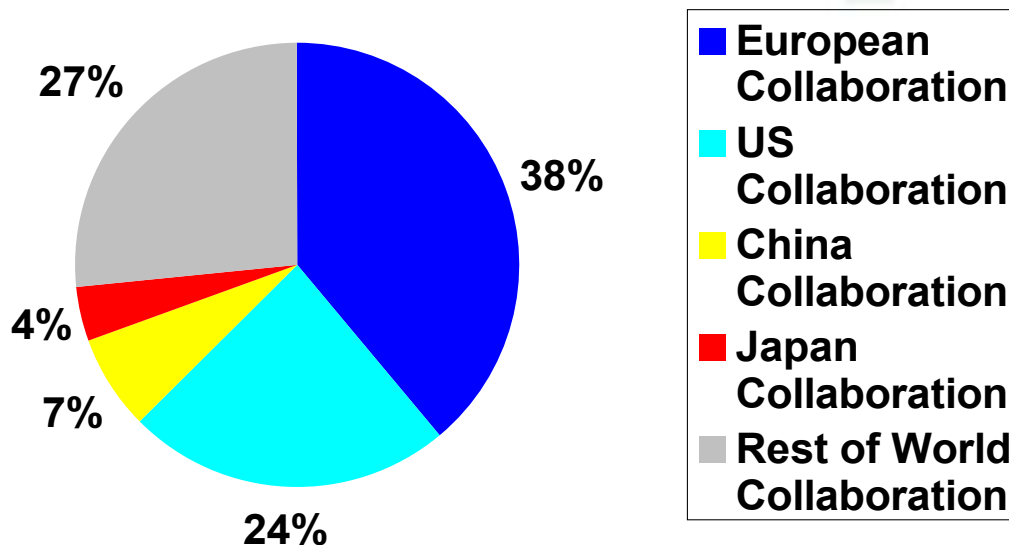




Percentage of Australian Papers with International Co-authorship

Source: Thomson ISI





Percentage of Australian Internationally Co-authored Papers involving European Collaboration compared with others (2007)

Source: Thomson ISI





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COLLABORATION WITH EUROPE

- ❖ Supported and enhanced by strong bilateral linkages – UK, Germany, France, Italy and the Netherlands.
- ❖ Access to big science projects and global programmes such as Framework Programmes particularly valuable for Australia.
- ❖ Australian engagement supported through International Science Linkages Program.
- ❖ Australia has been working hard at furthering its collaborative links at the governmental level.
- ❖ FEAST's own contribution has been invaluable.





- ❖ Australia's collaboration efforts with the EU began bearing fruit under FP6:
 - ❖ 100+ Australian entities participated in projects worth €630 million;
 - ❖ Jump in Australian researchers serving as participating evaluators;
 - ❖ Marie Curie International Fellowships – 32 Australians to Europe; 30 Europeans to Australia; and
 - ❖ Research infrastructure participation in field of radio astronomy.





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- ❖ Key research infrastructure and facilities:
 - ❖ Square Kilometer Array bid;
 - ❖ Australia's Associate Membership of European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL).





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- ❖ Under FP 7, signs are even more encouraging:
 - ❖ In 2007, Australian research entities took part in 169 proposals, and 43 of these proposals have been successful (subject to negotiation).
 - ❖ These include 24 in FP7 Cooperation Program, 9 in Marie Curie Program, 9 in Capacities, and 1 in Euratom.





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SHARING THE CHALLENGES OF THE GLOBAL INNOVATION SYSTEM



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- ❖ Understanding the role science and innovation play in strengthening economic growth (some examples):
 - ❖ includes working together on researcher mobility initiatives;
 - ❖ also learning from advanced thinking emerging from Europe e.g. Sainsbury report on science and innovation;





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- ❖ Europe can benefit from Australian research in:
 - ❖ clean energy technologies;
 - ❖ bioeconomy (including industrial biotechnology and agriculture);
 - ❖ climate change;
 - ❖ water resources; and
 - ❖ aspects of ICT and nanotechnology.





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MINISTERIAL COMMITMENT TO EUROPEAN SCIENCE AND INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP





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