

News Release

www.premier.sa.gov.au



Hon Tom Kenyon
Minister for Employment, Higher
Education and Skills
Minister for Science and Information
Economy
Minister for Recreation and Sport

Wednesday, 4 April 2012

\$1M INITIATIVE TO PROTECT EMERGING TECHNOLOGY

The State Government is funding a new \$1 million initiative over three years to help South Australia's three main universities seek patent protection for their intellectual property (IP).

Science and Information Economy Minister, Tom Kenyon says the funding through BioSA will provide grants to the commercialisation offices at the three universities - Adelaide Research and Innovation (University of Adelaide), ITEK (UniSA) and Flinders Partners (Flinders University).

"The BioSA IP Management Initiative will provide grants to better protect IP generated by researchers at the three universities, assisting them to capture and protect emerging technologies generated by that research," Mr Kenyon said.

"Successful IP protection and commercialisation strategies have the ability to significantly add value to, and further build our bioscience industry, which has grown significantly since BioSA was established in 2001 recording strong employment growth from around 800 to 1700.

"Over the past 10 years, BioSA has provided \$32 million in project grants and this, in turn, has leveraged \$300 million in additional funding,"

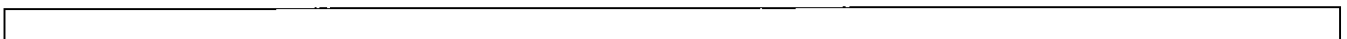
"The State Government's Manufacturing Green Paper released last week recognises the importance of building an advanced manufacturing sector capable of competing internationally through innovation and excellence and driving productivity across the whole economy," Mr Kenyon said.

"This will ensure that innovation in our advanced manufacturing sector is not only nurtured, but also geared toward global markets and supporting our expanding minerals and energy, agribusiness, clean-tech and defence industries.

"The Master Plan for Tonsley Park will bring together high-value industry, education and the research sector to create a new manufacturing cluster where innovation is encouraged

"Last year, we established the Department of Manufacturing, Innovation, Trade, Resources and Energy in October last year with innovation at its heart," Mr Kenyon said.

BioSA's Chief Executive, Dr Jurgen Michaelis said the three universities had indicated that patent filing competed with other resource priorities in their commercialisation budgets, making it more difficult for them to develop and manage IP protection strategies.



“BioSA is committed to providing the necessary support to ensure the growth of innovation and knowledge-based enterprises in SA, and successful IP protection and commercialisation strategies are fundamental to achieving this outcome.

“This new initiative aims to reduce the financial risk in IP protection and to promote the proactive filing of patent applications as a first step to driving successful commercial outcomes for South Australian researchers,” Dr Michaelis said.

