

MEDIA RELEASE RESEARCH CHALLENGE FOR ATN

Australia's five leading technology universities have announced a \$2.5 million grant program, aimed at increasing and promoting the benefits of collaborative research.

The *Australian Technology Network (ATN) Research Challenge* has allocated a total of \$500,000 per annum to fund up to two research programs, each of up to five years' duration. Funding for the programs will commence in 2005.

ATN Director Vicki Thomson said the *Research Challenge* will enhance the distinctive profile of ATN Universities and promote collaborative research amongst ATN researchers.

"The Challenge will support research in common areas and emphasise multi-disciplinary partnerships across the ATN. These partnerships will build research capacity and concentration to enable ATN universities to compete nationally and internationally in areas of shared expertise," Ms Thomson said.

The ATN is an alliance of Queensland University of Technology, RMIT University, University of Technology, Sydney, Curtin University of Technology and the University of South Australia. It aims to secure Australia's reputation as the clever country, contributing to its social and economic wealth.

"The research work of ATN universities contributes in a powerful way to the diversity of Australia's national system of innovation. To that end, we are encouraging applicants to undertake research that supports the Australian Government's National Research Priorities, investigates collaboration with CSIRO Flagships, and involves external business and industry partners."

Ms Thomson said the ATN universities are leaders in opening up new research fields and disciplines such as in the creative industries, and in bringing together diverse areas of academic research to work on practical problems.

"Together the ATN spends some \$100 million on research each year. For every start-up company it injects \$90 million of research money, a rate more efficient than the US rate of \$100 million and we have a significantly higher growth rate in Australian Research Council funding than other universities," Ms Thomson said.

Nominations of expressions of interest close on 30 September. More information and details of the ATN Research Challenge can be found on the ATN website <http://www.atn.edu.au/>

**Curtin University
of Technology**

**University of
South Australia**

RMIT University

**University of
Technology
Sydney**

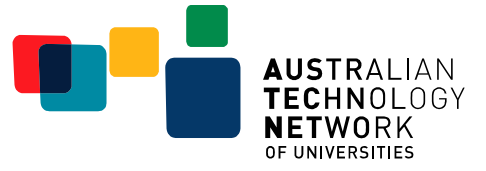
**Queensland
University
of Technology**

Chancellery
GPO Box 2471
Adelaide
SA 5001

Tel +61 8 8302 9132
Fax +61 8 8302 0943

www.atn.edu.au

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