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MEDIA RELEASE

UNIVERSITY COLLABORATION DELIVERS RESULTS

Playing on their strengths in collaboration with industry and in progressive programs for student learning, Australian Technology Network (ATN) universities have made a strong showing in the first round of the *Collaboration and Structural Reform fund* (CASR). Of the three ATN driven projects submitted for the programme, two have been successful, securing \$487,000 of funding.

ATN Director Vicki Thomson said the result was a testimony to the commitment of ATN members to building a strong and united network.

“If you include projects that are driven by our member universities, as well as the successful projects driven directly by the ATN, we have secured four of the ten successful bids that were given funding. This result underscores the ATN philosophy as a network, which emphasises building partnerships with industry and communities in its research programs, and finding solutions with practical applications.”

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.

“The ATN is increasingly encouraging our members to explore the benefits that can be gained by developing projects and programs as a network. These two successful CASR projects were driven primarily by the ATN as a whole, rather than by our individual members.

Along with the recently opened *ATN Centre for Metabolic Fitness*, these projects demonstrate the advantages in combining resources for a common goal. They will benefit from expertise and knowledge spread across the nation, bringing a broad perspective together and ensuring an outcome that will be applicable Australia-wide.”

ATeNergy is designed to pilot a national coordinated approach to the provision of graduate and post-graduate energy education and energy R&D in Australia. It will bring together the resources of the five universities of the ATN, the Australian Institute of Energy (AIE), CSIRO and industry partners.

The partnership will develop a national R&D program to address national energy R&D priorities, provide industry focussed courses in energy and provide general community education in energy. It will review the current identified energy research and education capabilities of the ATN as well as the needs of industry and business with a view to bridging those gaps with national R&D projects and course offerings developed in conjunction with industry.

**BUILDING
PARTNERSHIPS
FINDING
SOLUTIONS**



e-Grad School (Australia), lead by the Queensland University of Technology, will develop a suite of virtual graduate school services to be made available to universities and other research providers in Australia and internationally. The services will focus on generic capabilities and include employment and research related skills for postgraduate research students.

The project addresses a structural weakness in Australian research training by supplying a new model in the form of an e-Grad School for a collaborative e-learning/e-research approach to research training.

It builds on a successful ATN online initiative for postgraduate research students that has resolved major technical and administrative issues relating to network-wide collaboration and which has operated since 2002.

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