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MEDIA RELEASE

sus.tain'a.bil'i.ty n ***Defining the Future Finding Solutions***

11TH ANNUAL ATN CONFERENCE **4-6 FEBRUARY 2009**

The Australian Technology Network begins its second decade as a higher education peak body with its annual conference in Brisbane this week.

As the major strategic event for the year involving senior administrative staff and academics from Curtin University of Technology, the University of South Australia, RMIT Melbourne, University of Technology, Sydney and the Queensland University of Technology, the ATN conference focuses on the most relevant issues in higher education of the day.

With a conference theme of **sus.tain'a.bil'i.ty n *Defining the Future Finding Solutions***, the 2009 event, which will attract more than 120 national and international delegates, reflects the ATN's success in its mission of working closely with business, government and industry in ensuring it delivers solutions for a contemporary society.

This year's conference features a number of significant events and speakers.

Highlights include:

- On the key theme of Australian higher education, **Emeritus Professor Denise Bradley AC**, Chair of the Review of Australian Higher Education Expert Panel will share her insights on the future direction of the sector
- **George Megalogenis**, Senior Correspondent News Limited will share his reflections on the first 12 months of the Rudd government.
- A highlight at this year's conference is *On the Couch*. Taking five of the most influential leaders of higher education in Australia **George** will return to facilitate an informal chat session with the ATN Vice Chancellors focussing on their views and future aspirations for the sector and its contribution to a sustainable society.

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- Nationally acclaimed social commentator, **Dr Hugh Mackay** looks at what the student of the future is likely to be and how universities can engage the next generation of graduates.
- An **MOU** between the ATN universities and **Chinese based International Strategic Technology Alliance (ISTA)** will be signed, formalising the cooperative partnership between the parties in the field of nanotechnology. Since conceptual discussions beginning in 2006, the ATN and ISTA have been developing a joint emerging researcher scheme between the two networks, focusing on the nanotechnology field and the signing of an MOU formalises the work being undertaken.
- **Ben Sowter**, renowned international researcher with QS Limited will present the latest on world university rankings from an Australian perspective on Day 2 of the conference.

Further Information: Vicki Thomson 0417 808 472

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The Australian Technology Network is an influential alliance of five distinctive and prominent Australian universities located in each mainland State. The ATN's aim is to help secure Australia's reputation as the clever country, contributing to its social and economic wealth by building partnerships and undertaking solution based research which is relevant to industry and the community.