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Building Australian – German partnerships

Australian and German researchers will be able to increase their international research engagement and address shared research challenges in the first round of a new exchange program between the Australian Technology Network of Universities (ATN) and the German Government's German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

The ATN-DAAD *Australia Germany Joint Research Cooperation Scheme* supports travel and living costs for Australian researchers to spend time at partner institutions in Germany and for collaborating German researchers to spend time at ATN universities. It has a particular focus on extending the international research scope of early career researchers and PhD students, who can particularly benefit from the opportunity to build their international engagement and experience.

Announcing the successful projects, ATN Chair, Professor Jeanette Hackett said that the new scheme, established in late 2010, builds on ATN member's already strong research partnerships in Germany.

"In total ATN universities have research partnerships with 69 German institutions. As the largest economy in Europe and a world leader in developing cutting-edge technologies, Germany is an important bilateral partner for Australia and for the ATN group.

"Germany is Australia's fourth most important collaborator as measured by joint publications, behind the US, UK and just recently China. This scheme aims to foster research collaboration of the highest quality and will result in research outcomes and the exchange of skills and knowledge of mutual benefit to Australia and Germany."

Projects funded in the first round cover a wide range of disciplines and themes, including:

- The implications of online social media networks for the issue management activities of commercial companies, conducted by researchers from Queensland University of Technology and the University of Münster.
- Collaboration between University of Applied Sciences Karlsruhe and RMIT University researchers on the development of a new class of fiber-optic biosensors based on nano-organic lasers, with potential applications in biomedicine, life sciences and environmental analysis.
- The cultural influence in both countries of colonial exchange between Germany and Australia, bringing together researchers from the University of Technology Sydney and University of Potsdam.

The DAAD's Head of the Asia Pacific, Australia, New Zealand and Oceania Department, Dr Ursula Toyka-Fuong, said the DAAD was delighted to establish, in September 2010, the Australia-Germany Joint Research Cooperation Scheme with the ATN as a leading Pacific network of technical universities.

"As expected, the first round sees an impressive number of applications which made selection a difficult task for the peers' committee.

DAAD

Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst
German Academic Exchange Service



“The DAAD recognises the importance of highly qualified joint research collaboration between both countries. Including various academic generations from experienced researchers to early career researchers we hope to foster a long-term exchange and cooperation.

“We are looking forward to receiving applications for the second round, starting with the call for applications in April, 2011.

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**BUILDING
PARTNERSHIPS
FINDING
SOLUTIONS**