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ATN announces head of industry-engaged research training centre

The **Australian Technology Network of Universities (ATN)** has announced that Professor Lee White has taken up the role of Foundation Director of the ATN Industry Doctoral Training Centre (Mathematics) as the IDTC moves toward its official launch on July 19 and its first intake of students in 2012.

The ATN Industry Doctoral Training Centre (Mathematics) (IDTC) – seed funded by the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research - is a national first and is a network that will provide longer postgraduate courses and a form of higher education that do not currently exist in Australia. The IDTC will deliver research solutions to industry and train cohorts of doctoral students with broad capabilities generally not currently acquired during Australian PhD candidature.

ATN Chair, Professor Jeanette Hacket, said that she was ‘delighted’ that a researcher of the calibre of Professor White had agreed to take the helm of the IDTC.

“Professor White is the perfect choice to lead the ATN Industry Doctoral Training Centre in establishing a new paradigm in Australian research training and industry engagement. He is an eminent researcher with a significant track record in delivering cutting edge research by applying mathematics to the fields of chemistry and engineering with an industrial focus. As the inaugural Dean of the University of Melbourne’s School of Graduate Studies he is also an experienced hand in establishing innovative research training centres.”

Launch of the ATN Industry Doctoral Training Centre (Mathematics)

The IDTC will be officially launched on July 19 by the ATN Chair, Professor Jeanette Hacket, with an industry briefing delivered via national hookup between the five IDTC State capital “nodes” and Canberra.

At the launch potential industry stakeholders in the IDTC will be briefed on how the IDTC will work in partnership with industry to identify their pressing R&D problems and then deliver a solution through a dedicated PhD student backed by the research expertise of the ATN.

At the same time as delivering research outcomes to industry the IDTC will also deliver training outcomes to upskill existing industry employees or provide a recruitment stream of PhD graduates equipped with managerial/professional skills to be future leaders of industry. Indeed in the UK - where the IDTC concept has been in operation for a number of years across a raft of disciplines – IDTCs are described as delivering the ‘MBAs of the future’.

Bio of Professor Lee White

Professor Lee White received his PhD in Applied Mathematics from the ANU and has subsequently worked at the University of Bristol, University of Melbourne – where he was Professor of Mathematics and the inaugural Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, Carnegie Mellon University in the US as Professor of Chemical Engineering and, from 2008, as Professor of Mathematics at the University of South Australia.

Professor White has 150 publications across a broad range of applied disciplines - including Mathematics, Chemistry and Engineering, has held numerous competitive grants and industry consultancies as well as supervising 20 PhD students to completion.

Further information on the IDTC or the launch of the IDTC on July 19: Dr Matthew Brown – 08 8302 7610