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National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS)

Presentation to EU Conference on Research Infrastructures

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BACKGROUND

- National Research Infrastructure Taskforce - 2003
 - Convened in July 2003 to develop a national strategy for universities and public research agencies
 - Chaired by Dr Mike Sargent
 - Recommended a national process to identify and prioritise research infrastructure needs
- National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS)
 - Announced in the 2004-05 Budget in May 2004 as part of the *Backing Australia's Ability: Building Our Future Through Science and Innovation* package
 - \$542 million funding available from 2004-05 to 2010-11



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DRIVERS FOR CHANGE

- Recognition of the need for a 'small' country to be strategic
- Increasing importance of major research infrastructure to research and innovation.
- Changing nature of research
- Increasing cost and complexity



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NCRIS PRINCIPLES


- Investments should enhance R&D contributions to national priority goals
- Focus on areas where Australia is, or potentially is, world-class and can provide international leadership
- Development on a collaborative, national basis to serve the research and innovation system broadly
- Access is a critical issue. There should be as few barriers as possible to accessing major infrastructures
- Consideration of whole-of-life costs and operational funding where appropriate



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STRATEGIC ROADMAP


- Expert Committee established in August 2005 to implement NCRIS
- Developing a Strategic Roadmap by end 2005
 - Assisted by 4 expert subcommittees
 - Consulting with the States and Territories and other portfolios
 - Coordinating with Australia's e-research advisory process



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STRATEGIC ROADMAP Key features

- Provides a framework for coordination and co-investment.
- Focussed on capabilities, rather than specific infrastructures.
- Capabilities prioritised for most strategic impact in terms of:
 - delivering national benefit
 - producing world-class excellence in both discovery and application driven research
 - providing enabling research platforms and promoting accessibility and collaboration.




STRATEGIC ROADMAP What has emerged?

- The Roadmap identifies a combination of:
 - Enabling capabilities to support research across broad areas including:
 - Biomolecular research platforms
 - Platforms for characterisation of matter
 - Platforms for fabrication of new materials
 - Australia's requirement for a systemic ICT/e-research capability.
 - Targeted capability in priority areas for Australia such as:
 - Understanding our marine and terrestrial environments
 - Low-emission energy processes
 - Responding to biosecurity threats



NEXT STEPS

- Exposure draft released in November 2005
 - Written submissions due by 9 December 2005
- NCRIS Committee to finalise Roadmap by end 2005
 - With a subset of the most compelling capabilities identified for immediate implementation
- Proposals to implement the Roadmap developed through 2006



NCRIS Further Information

- More information on NCRIS, including a copy of the Strategic Roadmap exposure draft, can be found at:
http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/research_sector/policies_issues_reviews/key_issues/ncris/