

Media Release

Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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\$13 million in new Sense-T Industry Research Projects unveiled

Industries across Tasmania will benefit from \$13 million in innovative research to be undertaken by Sense-T and its government, industry and research sector partners over the next 20-months.

Sense-T is a partnership between the University of Tasmania, CSIRO and the Tasmanian Government, and is also funded by the Australian Government.

It uses research, sensor technology and data analysis to solve industry problems and achieve practical outcomes across Tasmania.

Fourteen new projects (see full list below) announced today by the President of the Senate, Tasmanian Senator Stephen Parry, will broaden Sense-T's work beyond agriculture to also include health, tourism, new financial markets, and infrastructure, freight and logistics.

University Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Rathjen said the new projects demonstrated in a very practical way the quality, value and benefits to Tasmania of the University's research.

"Today's announcement represents a coming of age for Sense-T, helping to realise its goal of using sensor technology and data analysis to help people make better decisions across the Tasmanian economy and community.

"These projects will assist emerging industries such as aquaculture, tourism and wine as well as established sectors such as farming and forestry.

"At the same time, they'll boost the State's growing IT and research sectors, building on the reputation for innovation and excellence that we have established through institutions such as IMAS, the Menzies Research Institute, and the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture.

The industry research projects to be completed by December 2016 included:

- developing an app to alert Tasmanians when their health is at risk from air borne particles and pollutants;
- tracking visitors to the State to boost tourism industry planning; and
- improving efficiency and sustainability in irrigation, agriculture, aquaculture, and potato and timber storage.

The new projects will be funded by \$6 million provided to the University of Tasmania by the Australian Government through the Tasmanian Jobs and Growth Plan, with a further \$5 million from Sense-T's project partners, including industry, CSIRO and the Tasmanian Government.

As a part of today's announcement, Senator Parry also officially launched the new Sense-T NICTA Logistics Lab, a \$2 million collaboration with NICTA, Australia's information and communications technology (ICT) Research Centre of Excellence, which will use sensor technology and data analytics to improve productivity in freight, logistics and supply chains in Tasmania.

Professor Rathjen said Sense-T was an excellent example of the economic and social benefits that could be achieved when the University worked in partnership with government, industry and community organisations.

More information on the Industry Research Projects is available at sense-t.org.au

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Information released by:

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SENSE-T INDUSTRY RESEARCH PROJECTS

Agriculture

Forest and Wood Products \$408 000 *University of Tasmania's School of Architecture and Design's Centre for Sustainable Architecture with Wood, and the School of Engineering and ICT's eLogistics Group.*

Viticulture \$900 000 (Sense-T \$517 000) *Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture and University of Tasmania ICT Discipline.*

Potato Storage \$90 000 (Sense-T \$61 000) *Simplot Australia Pty Ltd.*

Pasture Productivity \$2.2 million (Sense-T \$512 000) *Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture and CSIRO.*

Water Management \$1.3 million (Sense-T \$204 000) *CSIRO and University of Tasmania.*

Irrigation \$500 000 (Sense-T \$496 000) *Definium Technologies, supported by Bitlink, iConnect Electrical and Brunstedt & Lambert Systems.*

Sensor-smart Irrigation \$600 000 (Sense-T \$510 000) *Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture, University of Tasmania ICT Discipline, National Centre for Engineering in Agriculture (NCEA), and CSIRO.*

Algae in Water \$600 000 (Sense-T \$372 000) *IMAS, Irrigation Tasmania, TasWater and Hydro Tasmania.*

Aquaculture

Macquarie Harbour Salmon \$700 000 (Sense-T \$638 000) *Tasmanian Salmonid Growers' Association, IMAS and CSIRO.*

Oysters \$1.4 million (Sense-T \$652 000) *IMAS and CSIRO.*

Shellfish Health \$457 000 (*funded by CSIRO and the Tasmanian Government*) *CSIRO.*

Health

AirRater \$1 million (Sense-T \$843 000) *University of Tasmania, Tasmanian Environment Protection Agency, CSIRO, Australian National University, and Tasmanian Department of Health and Human Services.*

Tourism

Sensing Tourist Travel \$500 000 *University of Tasmania, Tourism Tasmania, Federal Hotels, tourism operators and Tasmanian Government.*

New financial services

Natural Capital Standards \$294 000 *University of Tasmania Institute for the Study of Social Change and Tasmanian School of Business and Economics, NAB, and the Climate Disclosure Standards Board.*