

Kevin Rudd and Labor

A New Way



Authorised and printed by G. Wright, Australian Labor Party, 5/9 Sydney Avenue, Barton ACT

Sports Technology Innovation Partnership

What are Australian Innovation Partnerships?

Australian Innovation Partnerships are Federal Labor's new way of supporting Australian industry – placing industry in the driver's seat to coordinate Australian effort, grow Australian exports and jobs, and diversify our national economy.

Beyond the China resources boom, we need to build a modern and diverse economy – so that we continue our 22 year record of growth and continue to provide the jobs Australians rely on. Only Federal Labor has a plan to ensure a prosperous future.

In the past, Australia has put too many of our eggs in the one basket.

We need a new way to diversify the Australian economy – building more strong industries and regions. The Innovation Partnerships provide a positive plan to grow jobs, boost productivity and give Australian businesses the competitive edge.

The Partnerships are in areas of established strength and areas of emerging opportunity – so that we are building on today's strengths while also building up tomorrow's.

Australian Innovation Partnerships are a key part of the \$1 billion *Plan for Australian Jobs* package. Federal Labor is investing over \$500 million to establish 12 Partnerships.

Australian Innovation Partnerships build networks, improve collaboration, coordinate research, and provide new tools and services for industry growth.

They are industry-led, but will have significant research partners and the support of Government. They will be focused on improving industry at home and increasing links abroad.

Core Partners that have already come on board include some of the biggest names in industry and research. Firms like Kraft, Boeing, Woodside, Cochlear and CSL. Research institutions like the CSIRO, University of Technology Sydney, Monash University and University of QLD, to name a few

Two Partnerships in Manufacturing Excellence and Food Innovation (with headquarters in Melbourne) are already successfully up and running.¹

The third Partnership, in Medical Technologies, was announced on 12 August, with headquarters in Macquarie Park, Sydney.

The fourth Partnership in Oil & Gas was announced on 16 August, with headquarters in Perth and additional centres in Brisbane, Darwin, Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney.

More Innovation Partnerships, covering a diverse range of sectors, will be announced in the coming weeks.

What is the Sports Technology Innovation Partnership?

The Sports Technology Innovation Partnership is an industry-led network that will create new high value jobs, boost exports and significantly improve Australia's performance in commercialising sports technologies.

The Sports Technology Innovation Partnership will receive government funding of up to \$6 million to 2016-17, which will be matched cash or in-kind by core partners.

All Australian Innovation Partnerships will have access to a competitive, merit-based Industry Collaboration Fund to support large-scale collaborative projects and activities with large knowledge spill overs. The amount of funding available for individual projects will range from between \$100,000 to \$10 million per year.

The Partnership builds and expands on the 80 member Australian Sports Technologies Network (ASTN) established in April 2012 to improve industry collaboration and allow Australia's sports technology industry to reach its full potential.

Already the Partnership includes 23 partners from industry, national sporting organisations, and leading universities like Deakin University, Monash University and RMIT, working alongside the City of Greater Geelong.

Membership is open to all companies and research organisations in the sector and more partners will come on board once the Partnership is formally established by the end of 2013.

The Partnership brings in major names in the industry, like the Australian Sports Technologies Network, the Australian Football League, Australian Institute of Sport and Tennis Australia, who will work alongside SMEs and research institutions in our growing sports technology sector.

The Sports Technology Innovation Partnership will have a national reach but with headquarters in Geelong. It will be a key element in the Geelong region's long term transformation.

¹ Announced in February as part of the \$1 billion *Plan for Australian Jobs*

Why the Sports Technology sector?

Sports Technology is an important sector when it comes to diversifying the Australian economy beyond the China resources boom.

This Partnership will support a sector with significant emerging potential, helping Australian firms to improve their share of the global sporting goods market worth over \$250 billion per annum.

Australia has a world class sports and sports science sector. We are good at developing new technologies for elite athletes but need to get better at turning these into larger scale products for the mass consumer market.

What will the Sports Technology Innovation Partnership do?

The Sports Technology Innovation Partnership will drive collaboration between industry players and researchers to create new technologies, new products and new jobs and maximise the industry's export growth.

The Partnership aims to:

- Increase revenue across the sector.
- Create 1500 new jobs.
- Grow exports in the sector by 75%.

How do Australian Innovation Partnerships work?

Australian Innovation Partnerships bring firms and researchers together to develop new products and processes, encourage new investment, take advantage of new technology and improve skills and capabilities.

They are being established in sectors and locations where there is great potential to leverage existing strengths and improve links between industry and researchers.

Labor's Innovation Partnerships create new strategic networks, taking collaboration in Australia among business, researchers and government to a new level.

It is this collaboration that will give Australian businesses the competitive edge in a tough global market. It is this collaboration that will help Australian businesses to realise new opportunities – diversifying and modernising the national economy beyond the China resources boom.

Australia is not the first country to adopt these approaches to enhancing innovation. This initiative is informed by programs overseas, including the United Kingdom's Catapult Centres and the United States' National Network for Manufacturing Innovation.

How are Australian Innovation Partnerships being implemented?

Applications to establish Innovation Partnerships, led by industry and backed by research partners, were assessed by an independent board.

The response from industry was overwhelming: over 50 applications were received involving around 450 business, industry associations, government departments, universities and research institutes, covering an incredibly diverse range of sectors.

In June, the Board came back to us with a shortlist of applications.

The Rudd Labor Government is expanding on its original commitment so that we can back all the applications on the shortlist handed down by the Board. This has required an additional investment of \$12 million to the \$500 million plus program.

The additional investment will be offset from existing industry programs.

Providing applications on the shortlist can demonstrate they have the right partnerships, plans and strategies in place, then Federal Labor will back all of them under the new Australian Innovation Partnerships initiative if re-elected to government.

Once established, partners work together to establish a governance model, legal structure and performance indicators. They establish a board and executive team that will be responsible for ongoing strategic direction, governance, operations and management of the Partnership and ensuring it achieves its objectives as agreed with Government.

Australian Innovation Partnerships will forge links across industries, coordinate and share knowledge and skills through the Industry Innovation Network, which will enable all precincts to leverage the full potential of the NBN.