



MEDIA RELEASE

SENATOR KIM CARR

Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research

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RECOGNISING EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH AND COLLABORATION

The 2009 Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) Program STAR Awards were presented in Canberra last night by the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Senator Kim Carr.

The STAR Awards recognise high-level achievement in engaging with and building success in small and medium enterprises (SMEs) through the transfer of CRC innovations.

Awards were presented to the Environmental Biotechnology CRC and the CRC for Advanced Automotive Technology.

"This is a great result for two great CRCs and I congratulate them on their achievement," Senator Carr said.

"These organisations show us the limitless potential of strong partnerships between researchers and industry. Through cutting-edge research these CRCs have helped make Australia internationally competitive in biotechnology and high-tech manufacturing."

Other awards include the CRC Association Awards for Excellence in Innovation which went to: the Australian Biosecurity CRC, the Sheep CRC, the Poultry CRC and the Pork CRC.

"These awards allow us to acknowledge the crucial work that CRCs do in taking research from the laboratory to the shopfront," Senator Carr said.

Senator Carr also used the occasion to commit to annual rounds and open Round 12 of the CRC Program.

"I have made the decision to move to annual funding rounds, in line with Professor Mary O'Kane's recommendations from the review of Australia's CRC Program," Senator Carr said.

"Annual rounds will ensure there can be quicker collaborative responses to national priorities and emerging challenges.

"The new arrangements will sharpen the Program's focus and make it more responsive.

"The Rudd Government recognises the importance of investing in science and innovation, and its role in driving Australia's prosperity, especially in these tough economic times.

"Tough times demand creative solutions and CRCs will help us find those solutions."

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