



News Release



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FRANK SARTOR MP
NSW MINISTER FOR REDFERN
WATERLOO

SENATOR HELEN COONAN
FEDERAL MINISTER FOR
COMMUNICATIONS, IT AND THE ARTS

NEW ATP RESEARCH UNION TO BOOST JOBS IN REDFERN

NSW Minister for Redfern Waterloo, Frank Sartor and Federal Minister for Communications, IT and the Arts, Senator Helen Coonan, have announced that a new research building will be constructed to house two Australian Government research organisations at the Australian Technology Park (ATP).

A NSW Treasury loan of \$47.5 million to the Redfern Waterloo Authority will allow the construction of Building D at the ATP to house the multi-million dollar Commonwealth research agencies - National Information and Communications Technology Australia (NICTA) and the Defence, Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO).

The landmark agreement between the Redfern Waterloo Authority, Australian Technology Park, NICTA and DSTO will also increase local indigenous employment opportunities, particularly through the construction phase of the project.

“The construction of Building D fits nicely into the jobs compact signed earlier this year with the CFMEU, which has created jobs for 18 local Aborigines at the former Railyards, where the Carriageworks is being transformed into a \$40 million Contemporary Performing Arts Centre”, said Mr Sartor.

“Once completed, Building D will provide space for around 600 research and support staff of both NICTA and DSTO, significantly improving the high technology research capabilities in NSW”, Senator Coonan said.

The loan, which will be taken by the RWA over 25 years, will be covered by rental received from the agencies which each attract major State and Commonwealth funding.

NICTA has been established with \$380 million of Federal Government funding with the State Government providing \$20 million over five years to June 2007 from the Department of State and Regional Development.

DSTO draws all its funding directly from the Commonwealth Defence budget.

“The aim of the ATP is to maintain a strong focus on industry development and attract valuable investment opportunities to NSW”, said Mr Sartor.

“The work carried out by these two organisations fits well with this aim and will help to drive Australian innovation”, said Senator Coonan.

FACT SHEET

Building D

- Building D will be located at the Australian Technology Park, which is owned by the Redfern Waterloo Authority
- The building has been designed by Cox Richardson
- The building will be six stories and just over 12,800 square metres in size with almost 11,000 square metres floor space.
- The building will have a 4.5 star rating under the Australian Building Greenhouse Rating Scheme
- 96 per cent of the building has been leased to the National Information and Communications Technology Australia and the Defence, Science and Technology Organisation

National Information and Communications Technology Australia (NICTA) and Defence, Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO)

- NICTA is one of Australia's leading IT and communications firms.
- In 2002 the Australian Government selected NICTA to establish and operate a world class, world scale ICT research and training institute.
- The centre is currently headquartered at the ATP with around 140 staff.
- The proposed expansion will eventually provide space for a potential 600 research and support staff for both agencies.
- DSTO is the Commonwealth department for defence, science and technology.