

Dr Laura Dan

Talking Points

Launch of the ARC Research Hub for Transforming Waste Directly in Cost-Effective Green Manufacturing

The University of New South Wales

Sustainable Material and Research Technology (SMaRT) Centre

Wednesday, 18 November 2015

2.00pm–3.30pm

Introduction by Professor Merlin Crossley, Dean Faculty of Science

Thank you Professor Crossley.

Acknowledgment of Traditional Owners

I would also like to acknowledge the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the first inhabitants of this country and pay our respects to the traditional owners of the land on which we stand today, the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation.

Acknowledgment of VIPs

I would also like to acknowledge:

- Professor Les Field, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), The University of New South Wales
- Professor Veena Sahajwalla, Director of the ARC Research Hub for Transforming Waste Directly in Cost-Effective Green Manufacturing
- Mr John Barbagallo, CEO of Arrium Mining Consumables
- Mr Mark Finney, Group Commercial Manager, Brickworks Building Products
- Representatives from partner organisations and universities
- Staff, researchers, students and guests.

It is a great pleasure to be here at The University of New South Wales.

May I start by passing on the sincere apologies of the ARC CEO, Professor Aidan Byrne, who is unable to attend this event today.

He did ask me to send his best wishes and all at the ARC look forward to the outcomes that will be produced by this ARC Research Hub.

Hub launch

The strength of our manufacturing industries has long been enhanced by the achievements of Australian technology and our expert innovators.

But the industry also faces challenges hence it is essential that through a joint research and industry effort we stay ahead of the game through innovative strength.

ARC-funded research in higher education institutions is targeted to bolster our most innovative researchers, who are well-placed to find creative solutions to the challenges faced by our manufacturing industries.

The Australian Government through the ARC is providing more than \$2.1 million over four years to support this important research goal at the ARC Research Hub for Transforming Waste Directly in Cost-Effective Green Manufacturing.

This Research Hub has a strong leader in Professor Veena Sahajwalla, who is also an ARC Laureate Fellow.

Professor Sahajwalla has been very successful in receiving ARC grant funding throughout her career.

She also has strong connections with industry, and knows and understands the importance of a strong research industry nexus.

Such a connection was instrumental in the success of her invention of an environmentally friendly technology for recycling rubber tyres in electric arc furnace steelmaking.

This revolutionary approach has, I understand, already prevented more than two million tyres from ending up in landfill and helped reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

It also saw the commercialisation of the technology by One Steel, who worked collaboratively with Professor Sahajwalla throughout the research programme—which I am also happy to say was supported via the ARC's Linkage Programme.

I congratulate Professor Sahajwalla and the team she has established for this Research Hub on the occasion of its launch today.

Together, with your industry partners, you will achieve great outcomes.

I'd like to take this opportunity to formally acknowledge the Hub's industry partners who are providing matching funding and or support.

Congratulations to:

- Commonwealth Steel Company Pty Ltd (T/a Arrium Mining Consumables)
- Brickworks Building Products
- Tersum Energy
- Jaylon Industries

- TES-AMM Australia
- The University of Sydney
- Monash University, and
- University of Wollongong.
- I note that the Minister for Education and Training, Senator the Honourable Simon Birmingham, recently came to visit the SMaRT Lab here at UNSW and was impressed with what he saw.

I know you will continue to impress through the outcomes of this Hub.

ITRP in general

Industry linkages with our researchers is what the ARC's Industrial Transformation Research Programme is all about.

The programme has specifically been established to allow researchers to work collaboratively with colleagues in industry to solve some of the challenges facing different disciplines within industry.

This programme allows our researchers to tap into the expertise of those in industry—to look at an issue from both a research and end-user perspective.

It also provides support for Higher Degree by Research students and postdoctoral researchers to gain real-world practical skills and experience through placement in industry.

We have now run several rounds of this programme, which funds Research Hubs and Training Centres.

One of the research priority areas for this particular programme is manufacturing.

Around \$38 million has been awarded to the area of manufacturing via the Industrial Transformation Research Programme since its inception.

All of the Centres and Hubs to be funded under this industrial research priority area intent to break new ground with the end goal of improving our manufacturing industries.

This Research Hub is no exception—researchers and industry working on the common goal of creating value from mixed plastic and glass waste in manufacturing.

Conclusion

The award of funding to the **ARC Research Hub for Transforming Waste Directly in Cost-Effective Green Manufacturing** is a strong and smart investment in a greener future.

I wish you all the best and look forward to hearing of your research successes.

Thank you.