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CALL TO COMMENT ON NANOTECHNOLOGY JOB MARKET

The Australian National Fabrication Facility (ANFF) and TAFE SA are calling for comment on the growing micro/nanotechnology job market, including the demands on technicians and the training available to people working, or wanting to work, in the field.

This is an opportunity for businesses to help define plans to strengthen the nanofabrication workforce within Australia, allowing the industry to keep pace with established markets in the US, UK, and Europe.

Industry experts are invited to provide feedback on a consultation paper looking at the types of skills and knowledge required by employees working with nanotechnologies.

The consultation paper is available [here](#), if you would like to provide comment please send the completed form to james.lunn@tafesa.edu.au before the 17 September 2021.

As the industry continues to mature within Australia, demand will increase for technicians to support the work. This consultation paper focuses on essential knowledge, skills and attitudes required for these micro and nanofabrication technicians, ensuring any training gaps are identified and filled.

The paper has incorporated wide-ranging research into the current jobs available in Australia and overseas, as well as extensive involvement of the businesses that employ nanofabrication specialists, and the specialists themselves.

“We’re delighted to have been able to rely on TAFE SA’s extensive expertise in turning this input into a platform that we can use to build a workforce for the future,” ANFF CEO, Dr Ian Griffiths, said.

“ANFF reduces barriers to research translation, and this work with TAFE SA addresses the second side to the commercialisation coin that is sometimes overlooked – you can have the most promising technology in the world, but without a diverse team with a variety of skillsets, it’s impossible to capitalise on that potential.”

TAFE SA Chief Executive David Coltman said the organisation was thrilled to be working with ANFF to capture and document the skills required for the burgeoning nanofabrication industry.

“This is important groundwork to help build high-tech manufacturing jobs in Australia and TAFE SA and ANFF are working in strong partnership to define the knowledge, skills and attitudes that Nanofabrication Technicians will need,” he said.

“Once we have a clearer picture of skills needs, we will be in a really good position to define what new training courses and materials need to be developed to support nanofabrication technician jobs across Australia.”

Among the companies that will benefit is Micro-X, an SA-based award-winning manufacturer of x-ray technologies that currently employs 70 people.

The ASX listed company has worked with ANFF since 2017 to develop and manufacture a proprietary ultralight x-ray tube based on field emission from a carbon nanotube emitter – this component allowed them to create two portable imaging systems that are now in use in hospitals across the world.

Their continuing success and fantastic foundational technology has led to further ANFF-supported research projects aimed at creating ambulance-mounted CT scanners that will provide point of care stroke diagnosis, reducing time from stroke onset to treatment. Early diagnosis and pre-hospital treatment could drastically improve the chances of stroke patients making a strong recovery.

Micro-X founder Peter Rowland said training for a highly specialised, manufacturing oriented workforce was crucial for the future of the industry.

“It’s impossible for companies like us to continue to grow unless there’s a steady stream of well-trained people to step into new roles and help us seize opportunities. We’re delighted to see that ANFF and TAFE SA have taken this initiative,” he said.

[Click here](#) to view the consultation paper, and to have your say.

About ANFF

The Australian National Fabrication Facility (ANFF) provides academia and industry with access to more than 500 state-of-the-art micro/nanofabrication facilities through 21 Australian locations.

Established under the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS), ANFF has been enabling R&D through a mixture of training, expert support and direct tool access in an IP neutral environment for more than a decade. Find out more on the [ANFF website](#).

About TAFE SA

TAFE SA’s role as the state’s public training provider is to ensure all South Australian students have access to quality education and skills training across a number of regional, rural, remote and metropolitan locations.

With courses aligned to the needs of the state’s current and future workforce, this ensures TAFE SA is responsive, relevant and future focused.

TAFE SA is focused on increasing access to quality education and training opportunities to deliver a talent pool of job ready graduates for current, new and emerging South Australian industries.

TAFE SA has also been named SA’s Training Provider of the Year 2021 at the South Australian Training Awards.

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