



ANFF

## Australian National Fabrication Facility Ltd

151 Wellington Road, Clayton 3168, Australia  
ABN 50 124 231 661

*Providing micro and nano fabrication facilities for Australian researchers.*

### MEDIA RELEASE

## ANFF to receive \$36.2M additional funding

Investment will directly support Australia's core research priorities

4:30pm AEST, Wednesday 16 May, Melbourne, Australia –

The Minister for Education and Training, Simon Birmingham, announced on 15 May 2018 that an additional \$36.2 million will be invested in the Australian National Fabrication Facility (ANFF) to maintain the ANFF network's position at the forefront of scientific exploration.

As the Research Infrastructure Investment Plan released by Minister Birmingham outlines, "investments in new instruments at the ANFF will enable Australia to not only undertake world-class R&D but also rapid prototyping of next generation equipment and application of the technology for industry and commercialisation."

ANFF was founded in 2007 as one of the nine original research infrastructure facilities established under the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS). ANFF comprises a network of 8 university-based nodes spread across 20 locations, each providing researchers and industry with open-access to state-of-the-art micro- and nano-fabrication facilities.

This allocation of funding follows the Budget announcement made on the 8 May 2018 by the Australian Government, which allocated \$1.9 billion over 12 years into research infrastructure in response to the 2016 National Research Infrastructure Roadmap.

For ANFF, this investment means the network can continue enabling researchers from academia and industry to create next-generation technologies by providing access to cutting-edge micro and nanofabrication capabilities, training and expertise. As this is in addition to ANFF's operational budget, the \$36M will allow the network to build on its offering that helped almost 3,000 clients from industry and academia in 2017 alone.

"This funding means that ANFF can continue to provide researchers with a means to perfect next-generation medical technologies, to invent and refine new ways to harness energy, to devise better methods to enhance crop yields," said ANFF CEO, Rosie Hicks. "It enables the developers of future technologies to continue to cross the "valley of death" as fundamental research transitions into tangible products."

This financial support will allow ANFF to continue enabling research projects that align closely with Australia's research priorities such as:



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- Indee Labs, WearOptimo, Allegra Orthopedics and the BioPen. In April 2018, each of these ANFF-enabled projects received around \$1 million from MTPConnect – the Medical Technology, Biotechnology, and Pharmaceutical (MTP) Industry Growth Centre.
- The research conducted at ANFF-NSW by 2018 Australian of the Year Professor Michelle Simmons and ANFF-NSW Director Professor Andrew Dzurak has led to the founding of Silicon Quantum Computing Pty. Ltd. (SQC) which has recently started an international collaboration with the French Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique et aux Energies Alternatives (the CEA). The memorandum of understanding between the groups was announced by the Prime Minister of Australia, Malcolm Turnbull, and the President of France, Emmanuel Macron on 2 May 2018.

Significant investment is continually required in order to keep up with the ever-moving frontline of research. In its first ten years, the ANFF network has grown to become a \$250 million operation that has provided access to equipment and expertise to thousands of researchers and hundreds of companies. This has all been thanks to financial support from Commonwealth and State Governments, CSIRO and participant universities.

With the help of this newly announced investment, ANFF will be able to maintain its position at the cutting edge, providing for the Australian and international research community's nanofabrication needs.

### Media inquiries:

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