

The Australian National Fabrication Facility

151 Wellington Road, Clayton 3168, Australia

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

ABN 50 124 231 661



\$2.15 million investment in NSW's fabrication future

The Australian National Fabrication Facility (ANFF) has been awarded \$2.15 million by the New South Wales State Government's Office of the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer to invest in six sites across the state.

The funding will enable research into a number of national priorities including clean energy production, quantum computing, medical technologies, cybersecurity, and advanced manufacturing by providing access to essential micro and nanofabrication equipment and expertise.

ANFF, a project of the National Commonwealth Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS), provides open access to micro and nanofabrication equipment and expertise at 21 locations across Australia, six of which are embedded with New South Wales universities: The University of Wollongong; the University of Newcastle; the University of New South Wales; the University of Technology Sydney; the University of Sydney; and Macquarie University. These sites assist academics, start-up companies and international technology leaders as they pursue cutting-edge research projects.

Over the past few years, micro and nanofabrication capabilities available in NSW have been used to set a string of quantum computing records that have helped Sydney become a world-leading quantum hub; support internationally recognised expertise in the 3D printing of biological material for clinical applications; develop printable solar panels that could turn struggling printing companies into manufacturers of affordable clean energy technologies; and produce award winning communication technologies that could speed up download speeds without having to replace existing infrastructure.

The funding arrives through the Research Attraction and Acceleration Program (RAAP), a biennial NSW Government program that provides investment in infrastructure. It will be used to complement support provided by NCRIS in 2018 – which totalled \$36.6 million in the national ANFF network – as well as significant funds from the six NSW universities that offer ANFF equipment.

“Support such as this shown by the New South Wales Government is essential to the research communities of not just Sydney, Wollongong, Macquarie, and Newcastle, but across the country and abroad,” Dr Ian Griffiths, ANFF CEO, said. “It is by enhancing networks such as ANFF and NCRIS that these locations can provide platforms for collaboration between industry and academia and to help promising technologies to transform into new products, companies, and jobs.”

“This funding will help ANFF to build and maintain the critical mass of infrastructure and expertise that attracts international interest from globally recognised leaders in their field, as demonstrated by our recent agreements with NASA,” Dr Griffiths added.

Plans for expansion of ANFF's capabilities in NSW that will leverage this funding include the building of industry-standard process lines to assist the commercialisation of novel semiconductor products, bioprinting, and quantum technologies; to enhance additive and subtractive manufacturing suites; and to acquire or upgrade advanced patterning, etching, and deposition equipment for specific materials, including diamond. This is in addition to supporting the operating costs of hundreds of pieces of existing equipment, ~50 staff, and a network of open access laboratory and cleanroom spaces that are used by hundreds of researchers and engineers each year.

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About ANFF

Established under the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS), the Australian National Fabrication Facility (ANFF) provides academia and industry with access to more than 500 state-of-the-art micro/nanofabrication facilities spread across 21 Australian locations.

For more than a decade, ANFF has been enabling research through a mixture of training, expert support and direct access.

The capability provided by ANFF enables users to process hard materials (metals, composites and ceramics) and soft materials (polymers and polymer-biological moieties) and transform these into structures that have application in sensors, medical devices, nanophotonics and nanoelectronics.

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