



**Media Release**  
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### **NICTA plants digital seed for future cities**

NICTA, Australia's Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Research Centre of Excellence, has announced it will be a founding research partner for d\_city, a new cross-disciplinary networked community committed to using breakthrough research, including advanced ICT research, in urban design, development and management.

d\_city aims to unite relevant research groups around the world in the common goal of using data technologies to build better, more ecologically healthy cities. NICTA is contributing a one-off cash investment and office space in its Australian Technology Park laboratory to support the Australian d\_city community.

NICTA Chief Executive Officer Dr David Skellern believes the d\_city movement has the potential to inspire imaginative Australian ICT research of global significance. "With an extra 2.5 billion people expected to live in the world's cities by 2050, the development of smarter modelling, decision support, and control systems for urban planning and management is essential," he said.

d\_city co-founder Davina Jackson welcomed NICTA's support. "I am delighted by this vote of confidence in the development of intelligent urban decision-making tools," she said, "NICTA's involvement in this project should encourage architects, scientists and engineers to move urban design from paper and PDFs into advanced information modelling platforms."

According to Ms Jackson, reducing energy and material waste are two of the benefits that are expected to flow from the network. "This relates to construction, transport, the layout of cities and also energy-positive buildings, so d\_city is addressing the fundamental problems contributing to climate change rather than just coping with them," she said.

#### **About NICTA**

National ICT Australia Ltd (NICTA), Australia's Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Research Centre of Excellence, is developing technologies which will meet the current and future needs of the community in fields which will lead to large economic, social and environmental benefits for Australia. NICTA has five laboratories around the country. Since NICTA was founded in 2002, it has created four new companies, developed a substantial technology portfolio of patent applications and continues to supply new talent to the ICT industry through the NICTA-enhanced PhD program.

NICTA is funded by the Australian Government as represented by the Department of Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy and the Australian Research Council through the ICT Centre of Excellence program. It was established and is supported by its members: The Australian Capital Territory Government; The Australian National University; NSW Department of State and Regional Development; and The University of New South Wales. NICTA's partners include: the University of Sydney; University of Melbourne; the Victorian Government; the Queensland Government; Griffith University; Queensland University of Technology; and The University of Queensland.

#### **For further information:**

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