



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Defence**  
Defence Science and  
Technology Organisation



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## JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

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### **DSTO and NICTA sign agreement on ICT commercialisation**

National ICT Australia Limited (NICTA) and the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO) have entered into an Umbrella Collaborative Research and Commercialisation Agreement under which they will conduct joint research in the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) field.

The agreement was signed today at Parliament House in Canberra by Dr Roger Lough, Chief Defence Scientist and Dr Mel Slater, President and CEO of NICTA, and witnessed by the Honourable Daryl Williams, Minister for Communications, Information Technology and the Arts.

Mr Lough said DSTO and NICTA are major Australian research organisations with significant capability in the ICT domain and have complementary research capability in many areas.

“Therefore, it is in the national interest to establish a long-term strategic relationship between the two organisations to undertake research in areas of mutual interest, which will span a range of technical areas within the broad ICT arena.”

He said the Umbrella Collaborative Research and Commercialisation Agreement will also contribute to national wealth creation through development and commercialisation of intellectual property.

“Both DSTO and NICTA have the research networks, intellectual and resource capacity and business relationships necessary to develop and commercialise intellectual property in the highly competitive ICT arena,” he said.

Dr Slater said the Agreement is an excellent indicator of NICTA’s role as a national Centre of ICT Excellence. “One ambition in creating NICTA was that it would act as a catalyst for coordinating public ICT research in Australia’s interest, and the coalition with DSTO clearly shows this is occurring,” he said.

“It is pleasing that NICTA can work with an Australian world-class institution like DSTO to address issues of national importance. NICTA’s outreach commitments will also benefit through the involvement of Australian industry,” Dr Slater added.

Dr Lough said the first project to be undertaken under the new agreement will be to develop practical planning tools essential to military operations in an increasingly complex environment.

“DSTO is committed to developing tools that will assist military commanders conduct complex operational level planning. Collaboration with NICTA allows DSTO to draw on a wider range of specialist skill in this demanding area of research,” he said.

#### Media contacts

Darryl Johnston	(DSTO)	02 6265 7947	0404 823 741
Professor Robert Williamson	(NICTA)	+61 2 6125 8801	0404 053 877

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Phone: 02 6265 3343, Fax: 02 6265 6946

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## **BACKGROUND**

### **National ICT Australia Limited**

National ICT Australia (NICTA) is the organisation selected by the Australian Government to establish the nation's pre-eminent Centre of Excellence for ICT research, research training and commercialisation.

As a national ICT Centre of Excellence, NICTA will create and support people and ideas by actively forming strategic partnerships with other organisations in Australia and overseas, and acting as a pipeline for bringing ideas to market. In doing this, NICTA has developed external collaborative research projects and is actively seeking interactions with universities, Cooperative Research Centres (CRCs), other public sector organisations and private firms.

All NICTA's interactions with ICT organisations are intended to encourage the pursuit of excellence across Australia, to enhance ICT research and education capabilities at other institutions, and through shared wealth creation, see ICT further developed as a significant element and contributor to the Australian economy.

NICTA's Executive Offices are located at Australia Technology Park (ATP) in Redfern, Sydney and there are also two research and research training laboratories established at Kensington (University of NSW) and in Canberra (Australian National University). There will shortly be another research laboratory located at ATP.

NICTA is funded by the Australian Government's Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts and the Australian Research Council through 'Backing Australia's Ability' and the ICT Centre of Excellence Program.

NICTA will focus on ICT research at the highest international standard and scale, facilitate the commercialisation of research, conduct research training through an enhanced PhD program, and forge mutually beneficial linkages, with public and private sector research organisations, major corporations, small to medium enterprises (SMEs) and public sector agencies.

## **BACKGROUND**

### **The Defence Science and Technology Organisation**

The Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO) is the research and development arm of the Department of Defence. Its role is to ensure the expert, independent and innovative application of science and technology for the defence of Australia. DSTO has an annual budget of approx \$276 million (2002/03) and employs around 2,300 people, the majority of whom are scientists.

DSTO assists the Australian Defence Force by:

- Investigating future technologies for use by the Australian Defence Force
- Ensuring Australia is a smart buyer of defence equipment
- Developing new defence capabilities
- Enhancing existing capabilities by increasing performance and safety and reducing costs.

DSTO has three major research laboratories.

The Platforms Sciences Laboratory (PSL) - provides support to existing and future platforms (aircraft, ships and submarines), extending their life, and reducing the cost of owning and operating them. PSL is headquartered at Fishermans Bend in Melbourne.

The Systems Sciences Laboratory (SSL) - supports the acquisition, operation and integration of electronic systems on major platforms and land forces. SSL is headquartered at Edinburgh near Adelaide.

The Information Sciences Laboratory (ISL) - supports Defence's exploitation of advances in information technology and communication technologies. ISL is headquartered at Edinburgh near Adelaide.

DSTO also maintains research facilities in Sydney, Perth, Canberra, Scottsdale and Innisfail.