



NICTA - NOW OPEN FOR BUSINESS

National ICT Australia (NICTA), Australia's new Information and Communications Technology Centre, is now open for business, and has "hit the ground running" with applications being sought for senior management positions and 30 postdoctoral fellowships.

"This is the first step in building a world-class ICT research centre," the CEO of NICTA, Brian Anderson said today.

"We are seeking to fill senior management positions in the areas of commercialisation, industry development and IT management. The postdoctoral fellow positions will grow the initial research program, and we will shortly embark on a targeted search for world-class researchers, with advertisements in the national and international press."

Professor Anderson said that NICTA had been 'kick-started' by the secondment of some of the best researchers from the partner universities, ANU and UNSW.

"This has allowed us to hit the ground running and create an international presence almost immediately," Professor Anderson said.

NICTA was announced as the winning bidder to operate Australia's first ICT Centre of Excellence in May of this year. The Centre will receive close to \$125 million in Federal Government funding over the first five years via the Department of Communications Information Technology and the Arts and the Australian Research Council. The Centre will be based primarily in Sydney and Canberra.

"The objective is to build a research institute comparable to the best international ICT research centres," Professor Anderson said. "It draws its inspiration from the best practices of both the world's major commercial R&D labs and the great ICT universities. Its fourfold mission of research, research training, commercialisation and linkages places it in a unique position to undertake medium to long-term research in a commercially relevant setting."

NICTA is also offering scholarships to attract high quality students to its prestigious new PhD program. The students will benefit from advanced coursework, training in business development and intellectual property management and extended visits to major international centers in NICTA's research training network.

NICTA is already in discussion with a number of Australian private and public sector research organisations and universities for collaboration. The Centre will operate as an

open institution with an independent board, which will be supported by an International Scientific Advisory Committee and an International Business Advisory Committee.

Neville Roach, Chairman of NICTA, said: "On behalf of the NICTA Board I would like to say how delighted I am that we have achieved this significant milestone. The conclusion of the complex establishment process in a very short time was entirely due to the goodwill and commitment of all parties involved, including the Commonwealth and NICTA's core partners, the Board and management, all of whom gave 'benefit to Australia' the highest priority.

"Our core partners - the NSW and ACT Governments, UNSW and ANU - deserve special congratulations and appreciation for forming and resourcing the successful bid consortium and for underwriting the operations of NICTA to this point. The Board and management are very conscious of the trust that has been placed in us and are fully committed to build NICTA into a world class institution," Mr Roach said.

Further details about NICTA, including job openings and PhD scholarships, can be found on NICTA's web page: <http://nicta.com.au>

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