



Media Release

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NICTA appoints new Commercialisation leader

NICTA, Australia's Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Research Centre of Excellence, has appointed a Director of Commercialisation to build and drive NICTA's use-inspired research towards a range of commercial outcomes that benefit Australia.

Rob Fitzpatrick has an extensive background in business and technology in the ICT sector globally, including management, consulting, start-ups and business development for large corporates.

Mr Fitzpatrick is well regarded within industry, specifically for his roles as part of the team that set up and ran online grocer ShopFast and as a consultant for over seven years with worldwide management consultancy McKinsey & Company consulting to clients in Australia, Europe, the US and Asia.

Since 2003, he has maintained an active portfolio of information and communications technology businesses. With HeardIT his team developed transformational change in the radio advertising sector.

Other technology start-ups he has been involved with include a sports social networking entity with operations in three continents and an integrated technology application which makes print media interactive and measurable via mobile internet access.

"NICTA gives me the opportunity to work with some of Australia's and the world's leading ICT researchers," Mr Fitzpatrick said. "Use-inspired research in the ICT space will differentiate our future and provide an opportunity to strengthen Australia's position on the global map."

"Australia is regarded as a smart nation with strong skills in research which are well sought after by European and US companies.

"I am looking forward to being part of NICTA and helping it achieve the goal of being a top 10 global research institution by 2020," he said.

Mr Fitzpatrick will direct NICTA's commercialisation activities, developing the business skills of NICTA's research project teams and where appropriate, linking those projects with industry partners. This will help to further target and refine NICTA's research activities and strengthen NICTA's pipeline of commercial opportunities.

About NICTA

National ICT Australia (NICTA) is a national research institute with a charter to build Australia's pre-eminent Centre of Excellence for information and communications technology (ICT). NICTA is building capabilities in ICT research, research training and commercialisation in the ICT sector for the generation of national benefit.

National ICT Australia is funded by the Australian Government as represented by the 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 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 is also supported by its partners: the University of Sydney; University of Melbourne; the Victorian Government; the Queensland Government; Griffith University; Queensland University of Technology; and The University of Queensland.

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