New partnership for the Territory’s future

The new CDU/NTG Partnership Agreement for 2007-2012 was officially launched by Chief Minister Clare Martin, and Vice Chancellor, Professor Helen Garnett, at Parliament House on 21 November 2006.

The launch provided a fitting forum to celebrate the many successes of the first Agreement that have achieved positive outcomes for the Territory.

The guest speaker for the launch, Associate Professor Karen Gibb, highlighted the Bioscience North Australia facility as one of those success stories. Opened in 2005 as a Partnership initiative, the facility now offers local capabilities in molecular biology research services for national and international scientists, private industry, government and research organisations.

Guests also heard about exciting new opportunities for collaboration under the second Agreement – with an emerging focus on industry and community involvement in Partnership activities.

Signing the Agreement, the Chief Minister said the framework will further strengthen collaboration between the Government and Charles Darwin University in achieving common goals. Ms Martin also emphasised the importance of Charles Darwin University to the future development of the Territory.

“We need a world-class tertiary research and education sector to support Government program and policy development, and provide training suited to the needs of the Territory,” Ms Martin said.

Professor Helen Garnett said the new Partnership Agreement will work in areas that are focused on overall economic development, improving Indigenous opportunities, undertaking projects designed to care for Territory communities, and expanding international and national connections.

“Individually we can achieve many things: collectively we can achieve many great things,” Professor Garnett said. “The essence of the Partnership is bringing our resources together in specified areas and concentrating our energies on the attainment of shared goals.”

Over 60 people attended the launch, including senior University and Government staff, as well as members of the local research and business community.
Foreword from the Peak Group

With the latest edition of the Partnership newsletter we are pleased to announce the launch of the second Partnership Agreement 2007-2012.

The next Partnership builds on the successful outcomes from the first Agreement, and provides a platform for better strategic collaboration between University and Government. The Partnership Agreement 2007-2012 also emphasises the importance of the involvement of third parties, particularly the business community. The development of third party consortia will be actively pursued under the Partnership Agreement – reaping even more positive outcomes for the Territory.

In embracing a team approach to addressing the Territory’s unique needs, we recognise the importance of pooling together resources, minds and strategies, to come up with initiatives that can improve our competitiveness in the domestic and global economies, and offer solutions that will bring economic, social and environmentally sustainable development to the Territory.

Current initiatives that we showcase in this edition of Partnership Highlights include:

- the establishment of the Tropical Mining: Futures Program, a collaborative industry driven program that will serve the needs of the Territory’s mining industry;
- research into enhancing private sector engagement in R&D in the Territory; and
- the release of the Sound of the Sky, a visual record of Euro-Australian artists’ responses to the Northern Territory’s unique landscapes and people.

But of course, the most significant cause for celebration with this edition of Partnership Highlights is the launch of the Partnership Agreement 2007-2012.

The second Partnership Agreement provides a structure against which a number of new opportunities can be realised, while projects that are being developed or underway will remain in place. The Peak Group is looking forward to working with all Schedule Leaders under the Partnership Agreement to harness these opportunities throughout 2007 and beyond.

Sound of the Sky

A publishing collaboration under the Partnership Agreement has led to the release of The Sound of the Sky, an Australian art book by Daena Murray, the Curator of Visual Arts at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT). The book, which was based on the very successful MAGNT exhibition of the same name, presents a visual record of Euro-Australian artists’ responses to the Northern Territory, its land and people, over 200 years.

In recognising for the significance of the Territory in Australian art, the book opens a window onto a hidden history that relays and reflects upon the transformative role of visual imagery in the process of cross-cultural exchange…

As the first comprehensive survey of visual responses to the Northern Territory by European artists over a period of two hundred years, The Sound of the Sky has the potential to make a significant contribution to understanding and knowledge about Australian art – Dr Sylvia Kleinert, 2006.

The release of the book shows how exciting initiatives can materialise through the open lines of communication that characterise the Partnership Agreement. The concept for The Sound of the Sky arose from recognition by
the MAGNT of the outstanding publishing capabilities of CDU Press. Funding for the publication was made possible through a grant obtained by MAGNT from the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Heritage Historic Shipwrecks Program. The MAGNT is confident that the successful release of this book will signal the start of a fruitful publishing partnership under the Agreement.

CDU Press publishes books with a regional focus, mainly on Northern Australian or Southeast Asian topics, which are often written or edited by local staff or students of the University. Authors from outside the University are encouraged to submit manuscripts of regional interest. The books range from collections of academic papers to textbooks and monographs to novels. CDU Press is a member of the Australian Publishers Association and is recognised as a publisher of scholarly books by the Commonwealth Department of Education, Science and Training.

The author of *The Sound of the Sky*, Daena Murray, has been Curator of Visual Arts at the MAGNT for 13 years, and has 25 years’ experience in research and publication in Australian art and history. The book is based on her doctoral research examining the Northern Territory in Australian art.


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**Bringing our Business on Board**

**PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT IN R&D IN THE TERRITORY**

A new report prepared by CDU researchers has mapped the way for greater involvement by private sector business in Research & Development activities. The report, *Enhancing Private Sector Engagement in Research and Development in the Northern Territory*, was written by Professor Stephen Garnett and Dr Debbie Hall of CDU, and aims to encourage private sector engagement in R&D in the Territory.

The report describes the current level of involvement by business in R&D, the R&D needs of the private sector, and the kinds of policies and programs that would increase the engagement of Territory businesses in R&D.

In the NT, publicly funded agencies such as CDU, CSIRO and the NT Government agencies, have a good track record in accessing research funding from external sources, particularly from the Commonwealth Government. In the early days of the NT Research and Innovation Fund, it has been these agencies and institutions that have dominated successful applications to the Fund.

The report, commissioned by the Department of Business, Economic and Regional Development and the Northern Territory Research and Innovation Board (NTRIB), now aims to build on the strong collaboration between the Government and research sectors of the economy to also include the private sector.

**Some important outcomes from the release of this vital report will be:**

- development of targeted policies and programs that increase SME engagement and success in R&D;
- investigation of mechanisms to assist SMEs in the area of Federal fund grant applications.

Harnessing R&D opportunities will greatly increase the private sector’s productivity and competitiveness, as well as its ability to develop innovative products, services and solutions. The NT Research and Innovation Fund is aimed at the SME sector, and by supporting SMEs the intention is to extend their success in winning grant funding from Commonwealth sources.

The Partnership Agreement 2007-2012 also recognises the importance of innovation in creating dynamic and forward-thinking outcomes, and the benefits of collaborating with the private sector in the development of projects through joint investment on issues of mutual interest.

For further information on the report and its recommendations, contact:

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Tropical Mining for the Future

A PARTNERSHIP TO MEET INDUSTRY NEEDS

An exciting new industry collaboration promises to pave the way for innovative solutions to mining industry challenges in the Territory. The collaboration is between CDU’s School of Science and Primary Industries and Alcan International under the Tropical Futures: Mineral Program.

The Program has a strong industry focus and will develop innovative solutions to issues plaguing the mining industry in northern Australia, such as the adaptation of technologies currently used elsewhere to northern Australian conditions, or the development and testing of new technologies.

Under the new agreement, Alcan International will provide $220,000 each year for an initial period of three years for the appointment of a Senior Research Fellow at CDU. CDU hopes to grow the program further by attracting other mining companies in northern Australia to also become partners.

The program will provide research and development, as well as education programs that will benefit the mining industry. Tropical Futures will build a program at CDU which will provide a future source of specialist expertise and capabilities, including a flow of appropriately qualified graduates, to support the Territory’s minerals sector, environment and the community.

Currently, there is a focus on the issues relating to Alcan International and its operations at Gove, but this is expected to change as more companies get involved in the program. The main field of research will be in Tropical Environmental Chemistry; however the interdisciplinary nature of much of the research under the program will bring together expertise from within the University, NT Government, and other research agencies such as the Australian Institute of Marine Science, CSIRO and the Environmental Research Institute of the Supervising Scientist.

The Tropical Futures program demonstrates the clear results that can be achieved when Territory research, industry and government sectors, with a common interest in a particular field, come together through the Partnership framework.
Do you see an opportunity or have a good idea?

The Partnership Agreement is flexible in its design, which ensures the partners involved can embrace new opportunities, ideas, and innovative ways of working together to better the Territory.

The Partnership Agreement is supported by a team, within Government and University, who form the Secretariat. Principal contacts for the Partnership Agreement are Rachael Shanahan from the Department of the Chief Minister, and Ross Springolo from Charles Darwin University.

If you would like to explore avenues for doing business and building local capacity under the Partnership Agreement, contact the Secretariat.

The Secretariat is also available to assist Schedule Leaders, team members and other parties, with queries regarding the operation of the Partnership Agreement, including reporting mechanisms, responsibilities and structure.

This website contains key information on the Agreement such as the Schedule tree, which includes contact details for people involved, a list and explanation of all Schedules, news and events, policies and publications, and contact details.

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Did you know?

A standing certificate of exemption has been in place since January 2005 for Partnership tenders. The exemption means that there is no need to go to public tender for services provided to Government by CDU under the Partnership Agreement.

Recent changes to the NT Government Procurement Policy, and how they affect the Partnership Agreement...

As of 1 November 2006, the public tender threshold for government procurement has risen from $10,000 to $50,000. This means that from 1 November 2006, the public tender process is required for contracts exceeding $50,000, while the Agency now manages tender requirements under $50,000, instead of Contract and Procurement Services (CAPS).

What does this mean for Partnership activities?

Partnership endorsed requirements provided by CDU that are valued below $50,000 are managed on an Agency basis and a single quotation is allowable under Procurement Regulation 4(3). For Partnership endorsed requirements that are valued over $50,000 and managed by CAPS, a select tender process under the standing certificate of exemption will apply. The standing certificate of exemption is notified under Procurement Direction PR7.

For further information on Procurement Policy under the Partnership Agreement, contact Jean Rodricks on 8999 5439, or visit:


or contact the CAPS Assist line on 8999 1919.

All photos courtesy of CDU
Partnership Agreement

Governance | Key Objectives | Schedules | Schedule Leaders
---|---|---|---
Charles Darwin University | ECONOMIC: Creating Better Opportunities for all Territorians | Economic Development | Stephen Garnett (CDU), Larry Bannister (NTG)
 |  | Indigenous Opportunities | Wendy Brady (CDU), Dennis Bree (NTG)
 |  | Learning Environment | Tess Lea (CDU), Ken Davies (NTG)
 |  | Creative Industries | Donal Fitzpatrick (CDU), Diana Leeder (NTG)
 |  | Australian and Global Connections | Claire Baxter (CDU), Brian O’Gallagher (NTG)
 |  | Infrastructure Development | TBC
 |  | Strong Regions | Ram Vemuri (CDU), Dave Malone (NTG)
 |  | Healthy Communities | Lesley Barclay (CDU), Greg Rickard, Peter Boyce (NTG)
 |  | Safe Communities | Margaret Friel, Kate Halliday, Kate Vanderfaan, Peter Boyce (NTG)
 |  | Good Governance | Ian Thynne (CDU), Ken Simpson (NTG)
 |  | Sustainable Terrestrial | Bruce Campbell (CDU), Greg Leach (NTG)
 |  | Sustainable Marine Resources | Chris Austin (CDU), Karen Edyvane (NTG)

The Peak Group | SOCIAL & CULTURAL: Caring for Territory Communities

Northern Territory Government | ENVIRONMENT: Achieving Environmentally Sustainable Development

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