



## **Australian Delegation Visits Daresbury Science & Innovation Campus**

Directors from eight Australian hi-tech companies visited Daresbury Science & Innovation Campus (Daresbury SIC) on 29th June as part of the New South Wales Department of State and Regional Development's G'day UK programme – a series of events aimed at promoting business co-operation between Australia and the UK.

The North West leg of the visit, the only regional event in the programme outside London, was coordinated by the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA), Northwest of England Investment Agency (NoE) and UK Trade & Investment.

The focus of the visit was to help the companies identify investment opportunities and collaborative partnerships in the region, as well as to establish links with academia for research and development activities. A broad spectrum of technologies was showcased ranging from a 'smart camera' system capable of monitoring crowds and identifying and anticipating potential disturbances, through to novel breast screening technology using x-ray diffraction.

"All the New South Wales companies were pleased with the support and interest shown with many of the NSW companies able to make connections with local companies and networks with some remaining in the region for follow-up meetings in Liverpool and Manchester" according to NoE's Australian CEO Michael Hahn who arranged the visit to England's Northwest with the assistance of the NWDA.

Australia is the second largest investment partner for the UK, and the England's Northwest provides an ideal location for companies seeking to develop a gateway to expansion in Europe and the USA. The decision to host the visit at Daresbury was taken in order to tap into the Campus' powerful network of hi-tech firms, collaborative partners and universities.

Barry Buffier, Director General of the New South Wales Department of State and Regional Development, who led the event, said:

"Innovation thrives on partnership, that's what the G'day UK programme is all about - building and maintaining relationships. The visit to Daresbury has been a real eye opener and the Campus' model for open innovation is fantastic. We'll be applying some of what we've seen to our own network, the Australian Technology Showcase, and hopefully continue this programme of events in the future."

John Leake, General Manager, Daresbury SIC added:

"We warmly welcome our Australian visitors to Daresbury and trust this will be a valuable part of their UK programme. There are numerous synergies between the Australian delegation and our own community of hi-tech firms and wider business support network, so we look forward to seeing exciting developments from the visit."

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