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Press Release

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US Defence Forces Tour the Australian National Fabrication Facility

On the 17th of July sixteen representatives from eight US Defense Force science and research offices landed in Melbourne to begin a week-long tour of the Australian National Fabrication Facility (ANFF) and its associated research projects. The focus of the trip was to identify synergies between ANFF and the US delegation to seed collaborations in the area of fabrication.

Dr Patrick Carrick, Director of the Physics and Electronics Directorate in the Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) began the US contribution to a two-day symposium in Melbourne. He described the diversity of AFOSR's investments in basic research, which spans more than 200 academic institutions many of which are internationally based. Dr Jih-Fen Lei, Director of Research and Technology at NASA, followed describing their mission to drive research, technology and systems to advance aviation, enable exploration of the universe and improve life on earth.

Public lectures at the Melbourne Centre for Nanotechnology (MCN) gave the greater Victorian research community an opportunity to meet the delegation. Dr Ali Sayir from NASA presented on thermoelectric power generation describing how energy harvesting materials will revolutionise aerospace design. Dr Larry Nagahara from the US National Cancer Institute spoke on the significance of nanotechnology and how it is being used to both understand and control cancer.

The delegation continued to Sydney beginning with a reception hosted by the NSW Chief Scientist, Prof Mary O'Kane. Prof O'Kane commented on the international significance of NSW research, which was demonstrated by the commitment of the US delegation to the Australian tour.

Laboratory visits gave the NSW-based institutions an opportunity to showcase their work with tours of the OptoFab (Uni. of Sydney and Macquarie Uni. laboratories), Materials (Uni. of Wollongong) and NSW (UNSW) Nodes of ANFF. Dr Harold Weinstock from the AFOSR presented a third public lecture at the UNSW Scientia on quantum electronic solids, which also drew a significant audience from the greater Sydney research community.

The exceptional success of the tour was evident at the workshop dinner where representatives from most of the defense force agencies and the ANFF Nodes expressed their thanks to Rosie Hicks (ANFF, CEO) and Sofi Bin-Salamon (AFOSR Program Manager) for arranging the event.

About the Australian National Fabrication Facility

Established in 2007 under the Australian Government's National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy, ANFF joins 19 institutions to form a national network of eight Nodes. It provides Australian researchers and industry with a portfolio of over 500 state-of-the-art facilities and support which broadly fall within the following disciplines:

- Advanced Materials
- Micro and nanoelectronics
- Sensors and medical devices
- Photonics

As a network, ANFF provides a tool kit of state-of-the-art facilities and the highest level of expert support for Australian researchers, industry and entrepreneurs. It is open and easy access with the eight Nodes distributed throughout the country.

The framework of ANFF has been established to support each stage of the discovery process from fundamental research to manufacturing of prototypes and exists to keep Australia at the forefront of science, technology development and innovation.

About the US Defence Forces delegation

The US Defence force delegation consists of representatives from the following scientific research agencies:

- Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR)
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- US Department of State
- Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL)
- Army Research Laboratory (ARL)
- Office of Naval Research Global
- Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)
- National Institute of Health (NIH)

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