



The Place To Be

Media release

From the Minister for Innovation

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BIG BOOST FOR BUSINESSES HOPING TO THINK SMALL

Victorian businesses will have the opportunity to increase their competitiveness by using small technologies in their products, processes or services, thanks to a \$6.5 million Brumby Labor Government program.

Innovation Minister Gavin Jennings today launched the first round of the Small Technologies Industry Uptake Program (STIUP) which was a key part of the \$10.5 million Victorian Action Plan for Small Technologies.

“Victoria has world-leading small technologies infrastructure and skills and this program will provide support for businesses to access facilities, goods, services and advice that will help them include small technologies in their products, processes and services,” Mr Jennings said.

“The program will give Victorian businesses access to the Melbourne Centre for Nanofabrication, the Australian Synchrotron and MiniFab as well as facilities and institutions such as the CSIRO and universities.

“The development of small technologies is already driving transformation and innovation in products, services and industrial processes that will have a major impact across the Victorian economy and community.

“That is why we are investing in the future of small technologies to ensure Victorians will benefit from more effective and safer medicines, more environmentally friendly manufacturing processes, and more sustainable methods for managing our natural resources.”

Mr Jennings said Victorian businesses can apply for three types of STIUP access vouchers which they will exchange for access to small technology facilities and expertise.

The voucher categories are:

- Small Technology Feasibility (STFeas) vouchers — for companies to obtain specialised business and professional services to scope the feasibility of adoption of small technologies (value up to \$10,000)
- Small Technology Technical (STTech) voucher — for companies to gain access to equipment and expertise to demonstrate products, processes or services that would result in the potential adoption or integration of small technologies (value up to \$50,000)
- Small Technology Trial (STTrial) voucher — for companies to develop prototypes, pilot scale trials or improvements in existing products or processes through the adoption or integration of small technologies (value up to \$250,000).

“Our \$6.5 million program will assist businesses to move more rapidly from concepts and ideas into commercial products and services that will utilise small technologies and benefit people across Victoria and around the world,” Mr Jennings said.

STTrial voucher applications close on 11 November. For further information, eligibility criteria, and to download application forms visit www.innovation.vic.gov.au

STFeas and STTech voucher applications are open until June 2013. For further information and to download application forms visit www.stc-melbourne.com

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