

SA is smart choice for satellite study

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ADELAIDE'S mission to become a "Space City" will have a boost today from an announcement that it will be the home of smart satellites.

Alongside Space HQ – the Australian Space Agency – and the promised Mission Control and Space Discovery Centre, Adelaide will be the strategic and decision-making base of a SmartSat co-operative research centre (CRC).

Satellites are at the heart of the booming space industry.

Adelaide has several entrepreneurs designing nanosatellites, and today the Federal Government will announce \$55 million for the CRC to further develop advanced communications and Earth observations from space.

Another \$167 million in both cash and in-kind contributions will come from the 74 participants in the centre – universities, space companies and government agencies from around the country.

Premier Steven Marshall said the investment was "another giant leap" towards cementing SA as the nation's space leader.

"This will be Australia's biggest ever nationally co-ordinated ecosystem of space industry research collaboration," he said.

Federal Space Minister Karen Andrews said the CRC would be industry-led and support industries including agriculture and logistics, as well as defence and security.

"This CRC builds on the SA space connection; (it's) already the home of the Space Agency, and will establish a co-ordinated ecosystem of space research industry partnerships," she said.

"The SmartSat CRC will foster the creation of next- generation space technologies and professions, and make Australia more competitive in the US\$350 billion global space economy."

The CRC's goals include helping 73 PhD students to graduate, encouraging students to study satellites, and inspiring women and indigenous Australians to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and maths.

UniSA and Nova Systems have been pushing for a CRC to be headquartered in Adelaide to work on intelligent satellite systems, advanced communications and analytics.

The consortium submitted an application to the Government last year. At the time, SA Space Industry Centre chief executive Richard Price said it would boost the growth of the industry and SA's reputation as a space hub.

In its prospectus, UniSA says CRCs are proven ways to build Australian capability and grow its economy. The Smart-Sat CRC would work on taking new technology and turning it into commercial reality.

Fleets of satellites increase internet connectivity and provide real-time monitoring of natural disasters. They are also vital to national security.