

Australia spearheads the launch of smart satellite revolution

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Research project led by University of South Australia has financed a multi-billion smart satellite research which will launch one of the biggest investment in the country's history within the field of space R&D.

The Co-operative Research Centre for Smart Satellite Technologies and Analytics houses 84 research and industry partners and is a powerhouse worth \$245 million national research. Furthermore, the body has the support of a \$55 million commitment from the Federal Government.

In order to help Australia secure the telecommunications for defence and to monitor futuristic technologies, the SmartSatCRC is designing a new generation satellite technology.

The project is known to boost Australia's space industry from \$3 billion to \$12 billion by 2030, in addition to generating extra 20,000 jobs. The bid was allegedly developed by UniSA, in collaboration with Nova Systems.

The project is expected to revolutionize Australia's space economy. On the global front, space technologies and industries are worth more than \$500 billion, but their success is known to be underpinned due to serious global investment in research.

"Australia has had a strong pedigree and a long history in space with excellent scientific capabilities in instrumentation and communications technologies but until now, the research has not been brought together to build a new industry for Australia, and to capitalise on the exponential growth of the global space economy, says UniSA's Professor Andy Koronios.

"Our goal in bringing together the bid for SmartSat, was to show the huge potential and capacity there is in Australia to make an impact globally by developing leapfrogging technologies in areas where we have some of the best expertise on the planet – AI, advanced communications and remote sensing analytics.

"For a nation with a footprint covering nearly 1/10 of the planet, Australia has had very little presence in space; we cannot rely exclusively on the goodwill of other nations or our deep pockets to meet our communications and connectivity needs or to monitor our nation and our resources," he adds.

Furthermore, he elaborated that although CRC is headquartered in South Australia, being a national program, it will draw participation from best universities from the country as well as from the CSIRO and DST. The partnerships with the universities will be vital in bringing about a change in the development of Australian economy and in boosting the quality of life of Australians, commented Vice Chancellor of the University of South Australia, Professor David Lloyd.

This will further ensure, the participation of the entire nation in the development of smart satellite technologies in order to meet the demands of Australia's defense security.