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## More places urged for science and technology

### NEW ECONOMY

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THE voice of Australia's new economy risks being drowned out at this week's tax forum because of its under-representation at the event, AusBiotech chief executive Anna Lavelle has warned.

Dr Lavelle is the sole representative of the scientific and research community among the 187 partici-

pants at the two-day gathering. "That underscores my point that very often technology is overlooked, but really it's an important economic driver," she said.

"The country cannot rely on the mine and the farm. That's the old economy. We need to look to the new economy. We need to diversify the wealth drivers."

And Employment Minister Chris Evans talked up technology's key role in creating a new generation of jobs.

"Australia's future is probably at the higher end of manufacturing—the area where there is more use of technology and higher skills," he told ABC radio.

The agenda for Thursday's jobs forum in Canberra is crowded with heavyweights from the science and technology sector, including Dow Chemicals chairman Andrew Liveris, Boeing Australia president Ian Thomas and CSIRO chief executive Megan Clark.

But the tax forum preceding it

lacks any such presence from the sector. Science & Technology Australia chief executive Anna-Maria Arabia said her sector should have more seats at the tax reform table.

She said bureaucratic "silos" that limited innovation to a single government portfolio worked against the sector as well as industries needing modernisation.

Ms Arabia said technological improvements could help the struggling steel industry.