

Media Coverage

Company: AusBiotech
Date: 17 August 2010
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Page: Online

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AusBiotech BioCareers Expo - 25 August 2010

August 17, 2010 By: Birgit Boehm

All undergraduate and postgraduate bioscience, biotech and bio-engineering students are invited to attend the AusBiotech BioCareers Expo on Wednesday 25 August from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the German Club.

See attached flyer for more details.

[Expo](#)

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Ausbiotech 2010 – Melbourne, October 19-22, 2010

Ausbiotech 2010 is the premier biotechnology conference for Australia and the Asia-Pacific region.

The theme for this year's event is Creating Global Solutions and will include new therapies, diagnostics, medical devices, and will feature agricultural, industrial and climate change issues.

Event website: <http://www.ausbiotech2010.com.au/>

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Speech: Kim Carr, Address to the International Society of Pharmaceutical Engineers

Kim Carr

The pharmaceutical industry is a cornerstone of the knowledge economy.

It has been for decades – a fact that Labor recognised when it introduced its first plan for the sector in 1987.

It will be for decades to come – not least as a major force in the biotechnology revolution.

That is why I established the Pharmaceuticals Industry Strategy Group in 2008 to identify future directions for the industry.

It is why Health Minister Nicola Roxon and I revived the Pharmaceutical Industry Working Group as a forum for ongoing dialogue.

And, of course, it is why I am here today.

This industry matters for many readily measurable reasons:

- It employs thousands of Australians in high-skill, high-wage jobs
- It spends hundreds of millions of dollars on research and development each year
- And it is one of Australia's largest exporters of high-tech manufactured goods – with exports continuing to grow even during the global recession.

It also matters for less tangible reasons:

- It gives us unique skills and capabilities that can be applied in other fields
- It is an industry with a global outlook and strong links to the international innovation system
- And it is an industry that spawns the kind of clever and ambitious start-ups we need if we are to go on:
 - Renewing our economy
 - Generating new ideas
 - And turning those ideas into new jobs and new wealth.

Innovation
This is precisely the kind of industry Australia needs if we are to negotiate today's challenges and make the most of tomorrow's opportunities.

The challenges are familiar enough.

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Climate change is the most obvious.

How do we build high-tech prosperity in a low-carbon world?

We also have to contend with new sources of competition – including from countries that have both lower costs and increasingly sophisticated technical capabilities.

There is no question that we can answer these challenges, but there is also no question that business as usual won't do.

It is essential that we embrace change, build skills, and unlock creativity wherever we can.

That's why Labor has increased spending on research and innovation by 34 per cent since 2007.

That's why we prepared Powering Ideas, our innovation agenda for the next decade, and backed it with \$3.1 billion in new investment over the first four years.

That's why we established Commercialisation Australia – as promised in Powering Ideas, and as delivered at the beginning of this year.

It helps researchers, entrepreneurs and innovative companies get new ideas to market.

That's why we established Enterprise Connect – a promise from the last election delivered in our first year.

It has already helped around 3,000 firms identify and access the skills, tools and knowledge they need to compete effectively in the modern world.

These initiatives and others are all designed to modernise Australian industry by encouraging continuous innovation and continuous improvement.

We have to become more efficient and productive.

The rise of low-wage producers and the appreciation of the Australian dollar have put enormous pressure on our export industries.

To remain competitive, we must be able to do more with less.

Our opponents want to achieve that by robbing workers of their rights and reducing living standards.

Labor will do it by driving innovation – by working with industry:

- To apply smart design, materials and processes to make smart products
- To improve the way work is organised
- And to lift the skills of managers and workers.

Life sciences

One of our biggest investments in Australia's innovation capacity is the \$1.1 billion Super Science Initiative.

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It includes \$504 million for infrastructure to support research in biotechnology, nanotechnology and information and communication technology – the platforms that will underpin our future industries.

The Super Science Initiative is funding infrastructure to support:

- DNA sequencing and bioinformatics
 - Plant and animal phenomics
 - Pre-clinical testing
 - Drug discovery
 - The development of cell therapies and nano-medicines
 - The aggregation and analysis of population health data
 - And Australia's partnership with the European Molecular Biology Laboratory.
- Researchers and business

At the same time, we are working on many fronts to ensure that industry benefits from these investments in public sector research.

The Joint Research Engagement Scheme supports collaborations between universities, industry and end-users.

Enterprise Connect encourages similar partnerships, including through its Researchers in Business and Technology and Knowledge Connect programs.

Our new mission-based compacts require universities to define their approach not only to teaching and research, but also to community engagement and industry collaboration.

Earlier in the campaign I announced Clean 21 – Labor's strategy to reduce pollution and fight climate change in manufacturing.

One element of that strategy is a \$24.3 million industrial PhD scheme that will embed 200 of our brightest research students in industry settings.

The Linkage Industry Research Training Awards Scheme will give postgraduates valuable hands-on experience doing user-focused research.

Labor will offer up to 100 awards in 2012 and up to 100 in 2014.

These flexible scholarships will make it easier for industry to draw on university sector resources by reducing lead-time and red tape.

The scheme will encourage firms to participate in research training and later employ people with doctoral qualifications.

This is essential if we are to deepen the skills of Australian industry.

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The pharmaceutical sector already has a high concentration of research-qualified workers, but expanding and rejuvenating the research workforce is as much a challenge for this industry as it is for the economy as a whole.
R&D Tax Credit

Improved funding for public sector research is one part of the solution.

Improved connections between researches and industry is another.

Improved support for private sector innovation is a third.

Labor is providing that support through venture capital programs like:

- the Innovation Investment Fund
- and the Innovation Investment Follow-on Fund

The latter was established last year as a specific response to the shortage of investment capital caused by the global recession.

Of the \$64 million allocated from the fund, \$24 million has gone to life science and biotechnology companies.

Labor wants to go on improving incentives for private sector innovation.

That's what our new R&D Tax Credit is all about.

In Powering Ideas, we said we would:

- Achieve a 25 per cent increase in the proportion of businesses engaging in innovation, and
- Continually expand the number of businesses investing in R&D.

The R&D Tax Credit is critical to delivering on these ambitions.

By now the changes we are proposing should be well known.

There will be a 45 per cent refundable credit for firms turning over less than \$20 million a year, and a 40 per cent non-refundable credit for all other firms.

This doubles the base rate of support for smaller firms – restoring it to pre-1996 levels.

It increases the base rate for larger firms by a third.

Most important of all, smaller firms in tax loss will be able to take the credit as cash.

The new scheme is more generous, simpler and more predictable.

It decouples R&D tax incentives from the corporate tax rate.

We expect it to reach many more firms, in line with the objectives of Powering Ideas.

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There are around 8,000 firms registered for the R&D Tax Concession, but over half the benefit goes to just 200 of them.

Most of the registered firms receive little – and the two million Australian businesses that haven't even bothered signing up receive nothing.

International firms will also be able to claim the new credit, regardless of where the intellectual property is owned.

This gives us a chance to attract the most research-intensive international firms to our shores.

These firms anchor the most important global innovation networks, and Australia has everything to gain from tapping into these networks.

This really is a landmark reform – arguably the most important change to business innovation support in a generation.

We welcome the support members of the pharmaceutical industry have expressed for the measure – though AusBiotech, and most recently through Medicines Australia, which last week said:

- “Passing the R&D tax bill ... will make this country more competitive” (media release, 10 August 2010).

Medicines Australia went on to describe the existing R&D Tax Concession as “outdated, unpredictable and overly complicated”, and to point out that:

- “It does not provide a globally competitive benefit to companies conducting R&D in Australia” (Medicines and the 2010 Federal Election: Supporting Australia's Health, p. 7).

By way of contrast, the R&D Tax Credit will, in Medicines Australia's words:

- “Make access to tax benefits more predictable”
- “Reduce the cost of conducting eligible R&D in Australia by up to 10 per cent”
- And “allow Australian companies to better demonstrate to global investors the advantages of sending R&D investment to Australia” (ibid.)

To all of which I can only say: dead right.

That is why I am determined – and Labor is determined – to get it through the parliament if we are re-elected.

The future

Which brings me to the choice facing Australia this Saturday.

It all comes down to what kind of Australia we want.

I want Australia to be prosperous, but it has to be a prosperity in which all can share.

I want us to aim higher in our social relationships than inclusiveness and equal opportunity – I want us to aim for dignity and justice.

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I want Australians to go on enjoying all the benefits of human ingenuity and modern industry, while at the same time recognising that our resources are finite, and that our planet is fragile.

There are also some things I don't want.

I don't want to see us slipping back into the past.

A return to the way things were before November 2007 would be bad enough, but there are people who would drag us back even further – to before the Industrial Revolution – to before the Enlightenment.

Much of this retrograde sentiment has crystallised around the issue of climate change – which some people flatly deny in defiance of the scientific evidence.

The tragedy is that this undermines confidence in all science.

It legitimises Luddism.

It impedes the technological progress that is critical to alleviating disease, hunger and want.

So what I want most of all is an Australia that continues to value innovation, industry, science and research – not just to keep me in work, but because this is the key to everything else we want to achieve.

It is the key to creating new industries, new jobs and new forms of wealth.

It is the key to keeping Australia on the high road – to keeping us in the race to the top.

You can use whatever catchphrase you like, but it is all about ensuring that Australia remains a high-tech, high-value producer that can reward its people with good wages and a good standard of living.

We won't achieve that by magic.

We won't achieve it by sitting on our hands.

We won't, in the long run, achieve it just by selling coal and iron ore.

We will only achieve it by investing in new ideas and new skills.

That's what the pharmaceutical industry does for a living.

It is what Labor has been doing since 2007.

It is what we will continue to do if we are returned on Saturday.

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Note: this coverage also appears in 5 other international sites:

TFI News:

http://bourse.lci.fr/bourse-en-ligne.hts?urlAction=bourse-en-ligne.hts&idnews=BNW100818_00005024&numligne=0&date=100818

Businesswire (German):

http://www.businesswire.com/portal/site/home/permalink/?ndmViewId=news_view&newsId=20100818005029&newsLang=de

ANSA.it:

http://www.ansa.it/web/notizie/rubriche/economia/bw/2010-08-18_118550714.html

Finanzas.com:

http://www.finanzas.com/noticias/empresas/2010-08-18/332945_sigue-ampliando-global-life-science.html

Businesswire (Holland):

http://www.businesswire.com/portal/site/home/permalink/?ndmViewId=news_view&newsId=20100818005863&newsLang=nl



TVG Continues to Expand Its Global Life Science Network™ Through Strategic Partners AusBiotech, General Biologic and Nature Publishing Group

BioPartnering Europe 2010

SANTA CRUZ, Calif.--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))--Technology Vision Group LLC (TVG) continues to expand its Global Life Science Network™, providing clients with partnering opportunities and support from local and regional industry organizations in over 70 countries.

"Partnerships with industry leaders have always been a crucial element in TVG's amazing success. Looking ahead, our growth strategy includes the creation of new partnerships across the whole spectrum of life science business development, giving us both the breadth and depth that our clients require for their success."

New collaborations in 2010 include AusBiotech, General Biologic (GBI), and Nature Publishing Group (NPG) - expanding the TVG network into Australia, China, and providing recent content to TVG clients' desktops through Nature Publishing Group's BioPharma Dealmakers e-Newsletter.

"Partnerships with industry leaders have always been a crucial element in TVG's amazing success. Looking ahead, our growth strategy includes the creation of new partnerships across the whole spectrum of life science business development, giving us both the breadth and depth that our clients require for their success."

Dr. Robert Lee Kilpatrick, Partner, TVG

AusBiotech is Australia's biotechnology industry organization, which represents over 3,000 members, covering the human health, agricultural, medical device, bioinformatics, environmental and industrial sectors in biotechnology. AusBiotech's annual conference, AusBiotech 2010, is the premier biotechnology industry conference in the Asia Pacific region. With its theme, 'Creating Global Solutions', the event will bring together key industry experts working on biotechnology solutions being developed to deliver a brighter future. Conference attendees will access a global business network in

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person and online through TVG's biopartnering.com community – an online meeting venue connecting attendees before, during, and after the conference.

Australasian Life Science Investment Summit, 19 October 2010
Hilton on the Park, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
<http://ausbiotech2010.com.au/alsis-home>

AusBiotech 2010 national conference, 20 – 22 October 2010
Melbourne Exhibition Centre, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
<http://ausbiotech2010.com.au/>

CEO of AusBiotech, Dr Anna Lavelle, said: *"Biotechnology is a truly global industry and the AusBiotech conference attracts participation from 25 countries around the world.*

"AusBiotech has been using TVG's biopartnering.com since 2006 and we have seen a significant growth in business meetings over this period. It provides ease of communication in planning business matching meetings. In 2009 over 2,000 meetings were held in a three-day period. We look forward to an ongoing relationship as we think this provides a good service for delegates and the broader industry."

GBI is an information and professional services firm focused on China's pharmaceutical and healthcare sectors. GBI's information products, including its flagship online data product, SOURCE, provide essential competitive and market intelligence to pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and healthcare companies, and a select group of investors, consultants, law firms and financial analysts. Additional information is available at <http://www.gbipharma.com>.

"We are pleased to be working with TVG to help the global biotech industry understand and act on the China opportunity across all areas of the value chain. Whether valuing a portfolio for China, outsourcing R&D work, or exploring and executing partnership agreements, biotechnology firms worldwide will benefit from the power of GBI's detailed China market insight and competitive intelligence along with TVG's global network."

- Matthew Chervenak, CEO, General Biologic

Nature Publishing Group (NPG) is a publisher of high impact scientific and medical information in print and online. NPG publishes journals, online databases and services across the life, physical, chemical and applied sciences and clinical medicine. BioPharma Dealmakers is a new bi-weekly e-newsletter that brings recent content, freely available, from the prestigious journals *Nature Biotechnology*, *Nature Reviews Drug Discovery* and *Nature Medicine*. The content of the newsletter includes news and analysis at the intersection of academia and business and the science and strategy behind the deals. It provides profiles of big companies in search of partners to fill a particular niche, and profiles of smaller companies looking for larger partners, to work towards a mutually beneficial partnership.

"Nature Publishing Group is delighted to partner with TVG through our new BioPharma Dealmakers e-mail newsletter. Through our partnership, we can further our goal of bringing together partners for the mutual benefit of the industry."

- Melanie Brazil, BioPharma Publisher, Nature Publishing Group

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TVG's **Global Life Science Network™** connects an international consortium of regional trade and business development organizations focused on promoting the growth of the life science and biotechnology industries worldwide. Regional affiliates include important industry associations and government institutions in every major biotech hub, across thirteen countries. Through our regional affiliates we can help you connect with companies, potential business partners, government representatives, and supporting regional networks wherever the life science industry is expanding.