

Media Release



6 May 2008

NSW Minister for Science and Medical Research to open AusMedtech.08, Australia's medical technology conference

AusMedtech, the national industry group for developers and manufacturers of medical devices and diagnostics, will hold its inaugural national conference at Four Points by Sheraton Darling Harbour, Sydney, next week (12-13 May).

NSW Minister for Science and Medical Research, The Hon. Verity Firth MP, will officially open AusMedtech.08 on **Tuesday, 13 May from 9.30 am.**

Around 200 medical technology companies, innovators, clinicians, service providers, suppliers, investors and government representatives will come together to hear high-profile speakers discuss issues such as commercialisation, export, regulation, innovation and future growth of the industry.

Minister Firth said the NSW Government was proud to sponsor AusMedtech.08.

"Sydney is Australia's centre for medical device development and the headquarters for world-leading companies like Cochlear and ResMed. That makes Sydney the natural location for the AusMedtech conference," Minister Firth said.

AusBiotech CEO Dr Anna Lavelle said this was the first national event of AusMedtech, which is part of AusBiotech, the national biotechnology industry organisation.

"AusMedtech was launched last year after wide industry consultation identified the need for a coherent body to represent this thriving industry sector," Dr Lavelle said. "This conference is one of the first steps in our plans to drive the industry forward."

**** Media interested in attending AusMedtech.08 should email Jessica Gorman at jgorman@ausbiotech.org with their full name, media organisation, and contact details by Friday, 9 May for free registration. For more information, program and speakers see www.ausmedtech08.com.au**

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Quick facts: Australia's medical device and diagnostics sector

- The term 'medical device' can be broadly defined as any technology, including devices, software or diagnostics, intended to be used by human beings for the prevention, monitoring or treatment of a disease, injury or physiological process.
- Pacemakers, artificial hearts, artificial joints, in vitro diagnostic devices, syringes, catheters, contact lenses, surgical lasers and dialysis equipment all fall into the category of medical devices.
- Some of Australia's most well-known medical device products include the Cochlear implant and the ResMed range of equipment for sleep disorder treatment.
- There were 636 medical devices companies in Australia in 2007. Of these, 55 are listed on the ASX.*
- Total market capitalisation of listed medical devices companies was \$12.4 billion in December 2007.*
- Nearly 45 per cent of all Australian medical devices companies are headquartered in NSW.*
- 96-98 per cent of all medical devices manufactured in Australia are exported.

* Kelvin Hopper & Lyndal Thorburn, 2008 BioIndustry Review (Australia and New Zealand), Innovation Dynamics