

Embargo until: Thursday, 17th June 2010, 7.00pm

BIO INNOVATION SA'S 50TH NETWORKING FORUM MARKS TEN YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENT

Today, Bio Innovation SA celebrated ten years of achievement with their 50th Networking Forum Spectacular held at the BioSA Incubator in Thebarton.

The event attracted more than 140 people from industry, government and academia to hear speeches from Dr Meera Verma, Site Operations Director of Hospira Adelaide Pty Ltd and Dr Leanna Read, Managing Director and CEO of TGR Biosciences Pty Ltd.

Dr Read who has played a key role in the foundation of the forums said the forums are valuable as they bring together stakeholders from the research, government and industry sectors on a regular basis, giving them the opportunity to share information and ideas.

Over ten years more than 6,000 people have attended the forums often featuring keynote speakers from interstate and overseas.

"Bio Innovation SA's networking forums are an integral part of the South Australian events calendar and are a focal point for our bioscience industry," said the Minister for Science and Information Economy, the Hon Jack Snelling MP who attended the event.

South Australia's bioscience networking forums have played a major part in growing the state's thriving bioscience industry sector.

The first 'official' networking forum held on October 5, 2000 at Parliament House was hosted by former SA Premier Rob Kerin shortly before the inauguration of Bio Innovation SA.

"Initially a means of meeting others, the forum has developed into a means of achieving greater collaboration, knowledge sharing and relationship building," said Mr Kerin.

"At Parliament House, speakers from each of the three universities and industry committed their support to Bio Innovation SA. This was a big step ahead and a forerunner of how the forums have been central to industry growth."

One of the architects of the early forums was Dr Don Plowman, SARDI's Director of Research and Development at the time.

"Looking back over the past ten years, the networking forums have exceeded expectations. The forums evolved from government and university researchers to include company directors, executives and importantly, representatives of the bioscience support industry," he said.

"To me, the real success of Bio Innovation SA and the networking forums has been the establishment of the bioscience industry in South Australia, as well as a broad range of support services."

Professional photographs are available on request

Further Information:

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