



**The Hon Andrew Stoner MP**  
**Deputy Premier of NSW**  
**Minister for Trade and Investment**  
**Minister for Regional Infrastructure and Services**

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST MEDICAL DEVICES  
CONFERENCE OPENS IN SYDNEY**

AusMedtech is an important event for one of the State's strongest sectors to discuss the emerging markets and trends in medical technologies, Deputy Premier and Minister for Trade and Investment Andrew Stoner said today.

Mr Stoner this morning delivered the opening address at AusMedtech 2011, the country's largest medical technologies conference where leaders from Australia's medical devices and biotechnology sector will come together in Sydney over the next two days.

"NSW is an international leader for the medical device industry, so it is fitting that Sydney is hosting Australia's premier medical technologies conference," Mr Stoner said.

"The NSW Government is a proud sponsor and partner of AusMedtech 2011.

"I'm pleased to announce the NSW Government has secured hosting rights for and will sponsor AusMedtech 2012.

"Biomedical R&D and the medical devices industry are critical to improving the quality of lives of all Australians.

"Research and innovation by the sector right here in NSW helps to develop world-first medical technologies such as the ResMed sleep apnoea devices.

"In addition to the numerous multinationals who have their Australian or Asia-Pacific headquarters in NSW, our State boasts a wealth of homegrown companies taking ground-breaking products to international markets," Mr Stoner said.

One such company is Sydney-based AIMEDICS, who have developed a breakthrough non-invasive sleep monitor and alarm for hypoglycaemia in people with insulin dependent diabetes that is set to revolutionise care for young people with diabetes.

During the AusMedtech 2011 opening address, Mr Stoner recognised the significant role the medical device industry plays in the State's economy.

"In addition to the obvious health care benefits, the contribution made by the sector to the NSW economy is considerable," Mr Stoner said.

"In 2009-10, \$2.5 billion of medical devices, pharmaceuticals and medicinal products were exported from NSW.

“The conference will explore some of the opportunities and challenges currently facing the industry, including doing business in China, new models for commercialisation and clinical trials in emerging markets.

“With an ageing population and increasing demands for health products and services worldwide, the medical devices industry will only continue to grow in size and importance.”

A KPMG report ranks Australia second after Mexico as the most cost-effective location for biomedical R&D ahead of the UK, US and Germany, in terms of labour, salaries, utilities and income tax.

“We are determined to further improve the competitiveness of the NSW sector,” Mr Stoner said.

NSW is home to 45 per cent of Australia’s medical devices industry, more than three quarters of multinational pharmaceutical companies, and 27 per cent of core biotech companies.

More than 230 people from 130 companies will attend the two day AusMedtech conference organised by AusBiotech, the national industry group that represents the medical devices and diagnostics sector. For more information on AusMedtech visit [www.ausmedtech.com.au](http://www.ausmedtech.com.au)