

## Welcome

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An Australian Government Initiative



## CRC for Polymers secures extension funding



The Centre's Board for the commencement of the extension period (from left): Mr Ross Pilling, Mr John Cerini, Mr Steve Wright, Dr Ergad Gold, Dr Kieth McLean, Dr Peter Coldrey, Dr Ian Dagley and Mr John Grace.

The Cooperative Research Centre for Polymers (CRC-P) has secured an extension of CRC program funding of \$14.5 million for the five-year period commencing 1 July 2012. The CRC-P consolidates Australia's great and diverse national strengths in advanced polymer technologies, and makes them an accessible competitive advantage for Australian manufacturers. The extended CRC for Polymers will use its world-class expertise and technologies to address high-value opportunities that will embed and multiply its impact in future growth industries. The major challenge being addressed by the extended CRC for Polymers is to establish Australian manufacturing as a leading provider and exporter of products that meet emerging global needs in three areas - health therapies and delivery, water and food security, and low-cost solar energy - using enabling and sustainable advanced polymer technology. The extended CRC-P

has 23 participants and will undertake collaborative research on polymers, primarily in Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia. The research providers are two government research laboratories (CSIRO and ANSTO) and 11 universities. The other participants include five major companies (BASF, BlueScope Steel, Integrated Packaging, Mesoblast, and Virbac Australia), end-user organisations, and the State of Victoria.

The Centre's Board for the commencement of the extension period was recently appointed (see image above). The continuing members are Dr Peter Coldrey (Independent Chair, since 2003), Dr Ergad Gold (Independent, since 2005), Dr Ian Dagley (CRC-P CEO, since 1995) and Mr Steve Wright (CRC-P Company Secretary). The four new members are:

- Mr Ross Pilling, the Chairman and Managing Director of BASF Australia Ltd

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# BASF and CRC for Polymers to develop advanced technologies for soil moisture management



**Five-year cooperation to develop polymers to control soil wettability, water availability and nutrient delivery.**

BASF and the Cooperative Research Centre for Polymers (CRC-P) have signed a cooperation agreement to develop a new range of advanced polymers that will help farmers better manage water and nutrients in the soil. The five-year cooperation will strengthen the research and commercial activities at BASF Functional Crop Care, which develops solutions for stress and resource management in crop farming.

"The CRC for Polymers brings together world-class teams comprising leading researchers from the industry, Australia's universities and government laboratories", said Dr Ian Dagley, CEO of the CRC-P.

"Partners for this project include Swinburne University of Technology; University of Western Australia; CSIRO; University of New England and the Grains Research & Development Corporation (GRDC). With BASF's expertise in agronomy and chemistry, this collaboration marks an important step in building technology and innovation leadership that demonstrates our commitment to farmers in Australia and around the world."

An interdisciplinary team of material researchers, biologists and agricultural scientists from BASF will work together with leading research institutions in Australia. Project partners will focus on a range of polymers that optimise the growing conditions for plants in the soil. Potential products include sprays for water-repellent soils and polymers that can control the distribution of moisture in the soil. The laboratory and field trials will focus on agricultural crops.

The growing conditions in Australia, characterised by very dry phases coupled

Members from the West Midlands Group, The University of Western Australia, Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia, and the CRC for Polymers project team inspecting a non-wetting soil site at Dandaragan, WA.

with bouts of intense rainfall, provide an excellent backdrop for this research. "Thirty percent of Australia's cropping land is water-repellent and produces only ten percent of the nation's broad-acre crops," said David Blay, Business Director Crop Protection, BASF Australia and New Zealand. "We're thrilled that this project will help farmers improve productivity in these areas."

Dr. Markus Schmid, Head of Research and Development for Functional Crop Care noted: "Soil science is a widely-underestimated key success factor, and it is partnerships like these that lead to innovative, cost-effective and sustainable solutions for farmers. This cooperation will further develop advanced polymer research in agriculture, an area that is crucial for meeting the needs of the future."



# A PhD in Polymers

## POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Cooperative Research Centre for Polymers is offering scholarships for leading-edge research in the areas of polymer science and engineering. The range of research conducted within the Centre is broad and includes polymer chemistry, polymer physics, materials science, materials engineering, chemical engineering, biomedical engineering, and related disciplines. It impacts on the biotechnology, energy, manufacturing, and agricultural sectors of the economy.

The CRC for Polymers brings together researchers from universities in Victoria (Melbourne, Monash, Swinburne), New South Wales (NSW, Newcastle, New England, Wollongong), Queensland (UQ, QUT, Griffith) and Western Australia (UWA); Government research organisations (CSIRO and ANSTO); manufacturing companies (including BASF, BlueScope Steel, Mesoblast, Virbac (Australia), and Integrated Packaging); Coliban Region Water Corporation, NSW DPI, Rice Research Australia and Greening Australia. Scholarship holders will be based at the participating universities and benefit from access to a wide range of equipment and expertise spanning the Centre.

The scholarships are 3 years in duration and are valued at A\$30,000 pa or A\$10,000 pa as a supplementary scholarship to holders of an APA (or equivalent) scholarship. Each Scholarship



is accompanied by a project support amount of \$8,000 per annum which is paid to the relevant university. The Centre will also provide scholarship holders with a range of additional training and networking opportunities that will enhance career development. There is provision for a relocation allowance.

Your application should indicate your areas of research interest and include your curriculum vitae (with an academic record), contact details for at least two referees, and should indicate your preference for location in either: Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland or Western Australia.

## APPLICATION DETAILS

If you want to conduct cutting-edge high-impact research in a stimulating and supportive intellectual environment, we encourage you to consider applying for a CRC for Polymers scholarship.

### ELIGIBILITY

Applicants should be working towards, or have, a first or upper second class Honours degree, or hold a Masters degree, and be Australian citizens or Permanent Residents of Australia.

### APPLICATIONS

Applications should be forwarded to:  
Ms Amy Hunt, CRC for Polymers  
8 Redwood Drive, Notting Hill, 3168.

Early applications are encouraged and the closing date for applications is 7 December 2012. Applications received after that date will be considered in a later round of scholarships.

### ENQUIRIES

The Education Program Manager  
Professor Rob Burford: (02) 9385-4308,  
e-mail [r.burford@unsw.edu.au](mailto:r.burford@unsw.edu.au)

## CRC for Polymers secures extension funding

and Sub-Regional Head of BASF in Australia and New Zealand. Ross has more than 30 years' industry experience across sectors including manufacturing, chemicals and shared services in Australia, Europe and Asia.

- Mr John Cerini, the CEO of the Integrated Packaging Group since 2003. John was a senior executive and Divisional General Manager in the Amcor packaging business

and has a broad range of successes that include business turnarounds, Asian-based manufacturing, joint venture establishment and acquisitions.

- Mr John Grace, an experienced director of listed and private companies who has worked for 40 years in industry, primarily biotechnology, 20 years of which he was a CEO. His main skills include dealing with the complexities of commercialisation of

research, particularly from the public, sector.

- Dr Keith McLean, the Theme Leader for Biomedical Materials in CSIRO Materials Science and Engineering. Keith leads a team of materials scientists and biologists developing biomaterials for tissue engineering, stem cell propagation and implantable devices.

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# 14th Australasian Polymer Summer School (14APSS)

Flinders University, Adelaide, South Australia, 4-7 December 2012

## OVERVIEW OF SUMMER SCHOOL:

The RACI Polymer Division and the CRC for Polymers are jointly sponsoring the 14th Australasian Polymer Summer School. This provides an excellent opportunity to gain an overview of important developments in polymer science and engineering from experts in their fields. Anyone interested in the topics to be presented is encouraged to register.

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Students enrolled in higher degrees;
- Undergraduate Engineering and Science students;
- Postdoctoral fellows;
- Anyone with a technical interest in polymers and polymer research.

## PRESENTERS AND TOPICS:

- **Prof Wayne Cook, Monash University,**  
'An introduction to structure-property relationships in polymers'.
- **Dr Lachlan Yee, Southern Cross University,**  
'Environmentally sensitive polymers'.
- **A/Prof Mikel Duke, Victoria University,**  
'Innovative membrane technologies for water, foods and energy applications'.
- **Prof San Thang, CSIRO,**  
'Living polymerization'.
- **Dr Kevin Jack, The University of Queensland,**  
'Advanced polymer characterisation using scattering techniques'.
- **Dr Sheng Dai, Adelaide University,**  
'Polymers for biomaterial and nanomaterial applications'.

Co- : RACI Polymer Division  
and the CRC for Polymers



14APSS Conference Convener:  
Professor Wayne Cook  
Department of Materials Engineering  
Monash University

For more information, please contact:  
Ms Amy Hunt amy.hunt@crpc.com.au  
Phone: (03) 9518 0400  
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Or to register visit our website at:  
[www.crcp.com.au](http://www.crcp.com.au)



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