

Media Release

SMARTSAT CRC ANNOUNCES FOUNDATION BOARD

The SmartSat Cooperative Research Centre has just appointed a high calibre independent Board to guide it in its mission of developing leapfrogging space technologies that will ensure that Australia builds a new space industry and transforms its major sectors including tele-communications, agriculture and natural resources, transport and logistics, mining and defence and security.

Established in July 2019, the SmartSat Cooperative Research Centre represents one of the most significant space research collaborations ever forged in Australia. This research powerhouse brings together more than 100 international and national partners who have invested over \$190 million. Together with \$55 million of Australian Government support through the Cooperative Research Centres Program, this represents a \$245 million research effort over seven years.

The skills based, fully independent Board is comprised of Dr Peter Woodgate as Chair, Dr Michele Allan, Mrs. Julie Cooper, Dr Jacqueline Craig FTSE, Adjunct Professor Michael Davis AO, Dr Rosalind Dubs, Professor Margaret Harding, and Professor Andy Koronios.

The founding Chair Dr Peter Woodgate highlighted the importance of gender equity and an independent, skills based Board drawn from across Australia. “The founding partners of SmartSat carefully guided the appointment process and expressed strong support for their new Board”. Dr Woodgate went on to say “The composition of the Board respects a commitment made to the Government in the original CRC proposal”.

The CEO-Designate Professor Andy Koronios said “We are delighted to have such a high calibre Board to guide us in this nation-building endeavour. I look forward to working with this dynamic Board Chaired by Dr Peter Woodgate who is highly experienced and knowledgeable in the space and spatial domain and together we will make a big contribution to Australia’s space economy and global competitiveness”.

The new SmartSat CRC will help create a sovereign space and satellite capability and position Australia as a leader in the \$400 billion global space sector, bridging the gap between research and the development and commercialisation of new products and technologies.

An outline of the professional background of each independent director is available via the SmartSat CRC website: smartsatcrc.com

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ABOUT THE SMARTSAT CRC

The new SmartSat Cooperative Research Centre is one of the most significant space industry-research collaborations ever forged in Australia. SmartSat brings together over 100 national and international partners who have invested over \$190 million. Together with \$55 million in Federal Government funding under its Cooperative Research Centres Program, a \$245 million research effort over seven years.

The SmartSat CRC will develop Australian technologies focusing on next generation technologies in three key areas:

- Advanced Communications, Connectivity & Internet of Things (IoT) Technologies;
- Advanced Satellite Systems, Sensor & Intelligence; and
- Next generation Earth Observation Data Services.

Working closely with the Australian Space Agency, SmartSat will make a strong contribution to the Australian Governments goal of tripling the size of the space sector to \$12 billion and creating up to another 20,000 jobs by 2030. Priority industry sectors for SmartSat include tele-communications, agriculture and natural resources, transport and logistics, mining and defence and security