



## **New Space Industry Hub set to host SmartSat Victoria Node**

**23 June 2021**

A new Space Industry Hub will host the SmartSat Victoria Node in partnership with the Victorian Government.

A \$1 million investment from SmartSat CRC is being matched with \$1 million from the Victorian Higher Education State Investment Fund for the Hub, based at RMIT University in Melbourne. Significant technical and training support will be provided by Amazon Web Services (AWS), as well as industry engagement backing from FrontierSI.

Initial funding will establish several flagship research projects aimed at connecting local capability with booming space industry markets both here and abroad, especially in the United States and Europe.

CEO of SmartSat CRC, Andy Koronios, said this major step for Victoria was part of a national effort to become leaders in the space economy.

“We are delighted that the Victorian Government has made this investment, which with SmartSat co-investment will help spark innovation and develop technologies to leverage the huge opportunities the space economy offers,” he said.

“SmartSat’s Victorian partners including Deakin University, LaTrobe University, Swinburne University and RMIT University will be able to participate in joint projects with Victorian industry to leverage national and international space collaborative initiatives such as NASA’s Moon to Mars Exploration Program, UK Space Bridge, state government space industry investments and CRC-P grants.”

RMIT Deputy Vice-Chancellor for STEM and Vice President Digital Innovation, Professor Aleksandar Subic, said the Hub’s primary focus was to help local companies – from agriculture and transport to logistics and manufacturing – develop new technologies, skills and capabilities using satellite data.

“The RMIT Space Industry Hub will be a launch pad and an industrial solutions incubator to support collaboration and innovation for Victoria’s space industry growth,” Subic said.

“At the core of this growth are digital technologies and leveraging the state’s strong capabilities in advanced manufacturing.”

Significantly, the Hub will provide affordable access to real-time satellite data for industry collaborators through AWS Ground Station. This service allows users to control their

satellite communications, process data, and scale their operations without having to worry about building or managing ground station infrastructures.



AWS Country Director for Public Sector in Australia and New Zealand, Iain Rouse, said this improved access to satellite data would help drive innovation and provide new market opportunities for Australian businesses.

“When space is made accessible and cost-effective, there is no limit to what can be accomplished. AWS is excited to help the Space Industry Hub accelerate their research, innovation, and capability development in space,” Rouse said.

CEO of FrontierSI, Dr Graeme Kernich, said collaborative sector roadmaps were being developed to guide researchers and local industries in how to capitalise on space industry opportunities.

“The Space Industry Hub provides the opportunity to connect Victoria’s world-leading research and solution providers with the challenges and opportunities of the global space sector,” Kernich said.

“We are delighted that this strategic collaboration intends to leverage innovative space technologies into impactful solutions used by industry.”

For more information contact: [spaceindustryhub@rmit.edu.au](mailto:spaceindustryhub@rmit.edu.au)

#### **ABOUT THE SMARTSAT CRC**

The SmartSat Cooperative Research Centre brings together over 100 national and international partners who have invested over \$190 million, along with \$55 million in Federal Government funding under its Cooperative Research Centres Program, in a \$245 million research effort over seven years. Working closely with the Australian Space Agency, SmartSat will make a strong contribution to the Australian Government’s goal of tripling the size of the space sector to \$12 billion and creating up to 20,000 jobs by 2030. Priority industry sectors for SmartSat include telecommunications, agriculture and natural resources, transport and logistics, mining, and defence and national security.

#### **SMARTSAT CRC ENQUIRIES:**

Adj. Professor Nicola Sasanelli AM  
Director Communications and Outreach, SmartSat CRC  
0488 565 938 | [Nicola.sasanelli@smartsatcrc.com](mailto:Nicola.sasanelli@smartsatcrc.com)

#### **SMARTSAT VICTORIA NODE PARTNERS**

