

## Media Release

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### **FROM WALKING THE EARTH TO SCANNING IT FROM SPACE, 24 AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURERS TO COMMERCIALISE WORLD-LEADING PRODUCTS**

- *Australian manufacturers are set to make their mark on the earth's surface while scanning it from space in the latest round of funding from AMGC's managed \$30 million Commercialisation Fund.*
- *Australian manufacturers continue to drive jobs growth through commercialisation of world-leading innovations include a new 60-second COVID test, world's-first needleless injection system, space borne chemical scanner, "smart shoes" to detect ulcers, and '100-year-old-timber' made from today's waste.*
- *Twenty-four Australian manufacturers have matched Federal co-investment ~4:1, with \$41.42 million devoted to the latest round of co-investments from AMGC.*
- *Commercialisation Fund nearing exhaustion just nine months after launch.*

Australian manufacturers continue to drive Australia's economic recovery from the pandemic. With the latest round of co-investment awarded to local manufacturers, these projects are commercialising better ways to manage and mitigate our health and security concerns, improve food and beverage operations, and make better use of our planet and its finite resources.

The latest round of 24 co-invested projects (***listed overpage***) announced via the Advanced Manufacturing Growth Centre managed Commercialisation Fund will see Australia's manufacturing industry contribute over \$32.4 million in funding alongside the Federal Government's \$9.03 million to drive commercialisation of world-leading Australian-made products.

With \$29 million of the \$30 million Commercialisation Fund allocated to 55 projects just 10-months after the launch of the program, AMGC can reveal that the spread of projects across the six National Manufacturing Priorities, with:

- 34 per cent of projects spanning the NMP of Recycling and Clean Energy
- 23 per cent of projects spanning the NMP of Medical Product
- 18 per cent of projects spanning the NMP of Food and Beverage
- 11 per cent of projects spanning the NMP of Resource Technology and Critical Mineral Processing

While the remaining 14 per cent is split equitably between the NMPs of Space and Defence. All 24 co-invested projects from tranches 6, 7 and 8 are expected to create a substantial number of local jobs while driving additional revenues and export opportunities for the locally manufactured products.

**Managing Director for AMGC, Dr Jens Goennemann said,** "This latest tranche of co-investment demonstrates the broad capability of Australian manufacturing and its ability to drive jobs growth across the entire spectrum of manufacturing roles, known as the Smiley Curve – that is jobs in R&D, Design through to production, distribution, and highly-sought after sales and services positions,

"The demand for targeted, well-managed, and appropriately sized co-investment has seen the Commercialisation Fund near exhaustion after just ten months. This demonstrates the appetite for co-capital investment and the manufacturing industry's willingness to match or better Federal investment to commercialise Australian ideas for domestic and international markets," said Dr Goennemann.

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The successful 24 co-invested manufacturing projects by National Manufacturing Priority include:

### **RECYCLING AND CLEAN ENERGY**

- **Allthread Industries (NSW) – Recycling and Clean Energy** – Develop and automate a new thermal arc spray line to manufacture corrosion-resistant structural fasteners, which offer superior value and environmental performance when compared to imported hot-dipped galvanised fasteners. **Total project commitment \$8.86 million (\$367,860 from Commercialisation Fund)**
- **Plantabl (VIC) – Recycling and Clean Energy** – Commercialisation and manufacture of Great Wrap's biopolymer resin (cling wrap) derived from organic waste, to produce a compostable stretch wrap that can replace plastic cling, silage, and pallet wraps. **Total project commitment \$6.41 million (\$534,760 from Commercialisation Fund)**
- **3RT (VIC) – Recycling and Clean Energy** – Development of large-scale manufacturing capability for 3RT's innovative and patented technology which converts low-value wood residue into a new hardwood with the same properties as 100-year-old timber. **Total project commitment \$3,326,840 (\$698,420 from Commercialisation Fund)**
- **Sustinent (NSW) – Recycling and Clean Energy** – Commercialisation of a scalable process utilising sugarcane waste to make value-add products such as mushroom grow bags. Once implemented, the Sustinent process will also be able to address problematic waste from cotton, rice, or wheat crops. **Total project commitment \$2.94 million (\$499,500 from Commercialisation Fund)**
- **Endua (QLD) – Recycling and Clean Energy** – Development of onshore manufacturing capability for affordable hydrogen power banks that will deliver 100% renewable energy, on demand, as electricity. **Total project commitment \$2.28 million (\$984,240 from Commercialisation Fund)**
- **Solar Analytics (NSW) – Recycling and Clean Energy** – Manufacturer of SolarConnect product to manage energy generation and consumption from rooftop solar, inverters and batteries to achieve maximum benefit from rooftop solar systems. **Total project commitment \$1.44 million (\$500,000 from Commercialisation Fund)**
- **Venlo (QLD) – Recycling and Clean Energy** – Manufacture of a 100% recycled, repairable pallet, managed within a circular & closed-loop automated repair and remanufacturing system that is tracked/traced and serviced within a global network driving critical continual improvement in safety, security, providence and cost reduction outcomes. **Total project commitment \$710,900 (\$450,000 from Commercialisation Fund)**
- **Geofabrics (NSW) – Recycling and Clean Energy** – Integration of recycled materials into Geofabrics' new and improved drainage products for infrastructure sector via a purpose-built manufacturing process to meet market demand for circular recycling solutions. **Total project commitment \$607,000 (\$252,000 from Commercialisation Fund)**
- **TomKat Global (QLD) – Recycling and Clean Energy** – Manufacture of a new thermal container for the transportation of temperature sensitive and perishable produce. The KoolPak has superior thermal performance to a polystyrene container, it is multi-use, fully traceable and recyclable. **Total project commitment \$555,000 (\$267,500 from Commercialisation Fund)**
- **YOUC (VIC) – Recycling and Clean Energy** – Commercialisation of a new 'Smart Box' system which will enable the tracking and tracing of boxes through the manufacturing process allowing for real-time restocking, reordering and waste reduction. **Total project commitment \$710,900 (\$297,500 from Commercialisation Fund)**

### **MEDICAL PRODUCTS**

- **Ceramisphere (NSW) – Medical Products** – Development of a manufacturing capability of transdermal (skin) drug delivery system using its unique nanocomposite patch technology for pain relief. **Total project commitment \$2.17 million (\$471,000 from Commercialisation Fund)**
- **Elenium (VIC) – Medical Products** – Develop a biometric device that can be deployed into a range of environments to automate biometric identification for access control, ticketing, contact tracing (requiring Government integration), vaccination and antigen test status, and the capability to perform contactless fever detection once approved. **Total project commitment \$1.35 million (\$553,364 from Commercialisation Fund)**
- **Examin (QLD) – Medical Products** – Commercialisation of a 2-minute COVID-19 breath test using a novel electrochemical biosensor that detects viral load at a molecular level with a sensitivity and specificity of 97%-98%. **Total project commitment \$1.3 million (\$647,665 from Commercialisation Fund)**

- **Vaxxas (QLD) – Medical Products** – Scaling and automation of manufacturing capability to produce a novel, needle-free vaccination platform. The High-Density Micro-projection Array Patch (HD-MAP) aims to improve the efficacy, reach, safety and economics of vaccination. **Total project commitment \$1.59 million (\$600,000 from Commercialisation Fund)**
- **Minomic Int (NSW) – Medical Products** – Commercialisation of the MiCheck® Prostate test that is designed to detect life threatening aggressive prostate cancer in its early stages. MiCheck® Prostate overcomes the low accuracy of conventional screening tests to reduce unnecessary intervention such as painful biopsies and improve overall management of the patient. **Total project commitment \$793,856 (\$396,928 from Commercialisation Fund)**
- **Reid Print Technologies (QLD) – Medical Products** – Field trials and commercial certification of a novel 'Smart Shoe Insole' (Smart Orthotics Sensor Skin), used to monitor the onset of foot ulcers that commonly afflict diabetes sufferers. **Total project commitment \$690,000 (\$300,000 from Commercialisation Fund)**

#### **FOOD AND BEVERAGE**

- **TPS (QLD) – Food and Beverage** – Commercialisation of advanced digital sensors for testing of water quality parameters in the food and beverage sector. **Total project commitment \$1.31 million (\$444,875 from Commercialisation Fund)**
- **ICEE (VIC) – Food and Beverage** – Commercialisation of Bouncee, a reusable and collapsible insulated crate and coolant system for short transit perishable logistics, such as click and collect, and home delivery. **Total project commitment \$1.31 million (\$444,875 from Commercialisation Fund)**

#### **DEFENCE**

- **Premcar (VIC) – Defence** – Development of a manufacturing program to support the installation of a new, latest-technology, powertrain into land-based defence vehicles for local and export applications. **Total project commitment \$1.53 million (\$699,931 from Commercialisation Fund)**
- **Microbio (QLD) – Defence** – Establish sovereign manufacturing of Microbio's unique InfectID PCR testing technology that provides rapid, highly sensitive bacterial, fungal, and viral pathogen identification in clinical samples for defence and civilian use. **Total project commitment \$1.11 million (\$407,119 from Commercialisation Fund)**

#### **RESOURCE TECHNOLOGY AND CRITICAL MINERAL PROCESSING**

- **EQ Resources (VIC) – Resource Technology and Critical Mineral Processing** – Commercialisation and scaling of EQ Resources' large-scale x-ray (XRT) and hyperspectral imaging (HIS) sensors for front-end loaders enabling the sorting of tungsten from historic mine waste stockpiles. **Total project commitment \$2.17 million (\$471,000 from Commercialisation Fund)**
- **Technofast (QLD) – Resource Technology and Critical Mineral Processing** – Commercialisation of Technofast's Hydraulic Head Nut, which replaces original retaining nuts used to fasten the conical "mantle" in massive gyratory ore crushers. Because crushers are subject to rapid wear and need regular replacement, the new fasteners allow for rapid replacement and maintenance, thereby reducing machine downtime and increasing operational safety for workers. **Total project commitment \$518,970 (\$259,485 from Commercialisation Fund)**

#### **SPACE**

- **Spiral Blue (NSW) – Space** – Commercialisation of Rainbow Python: a world-first integrated hyperspectral instrument and onboard computer that allows for the chemical analysis of any location on earth from space for use in agriculture, forestry, mining, and other sectors. **Total project commitment \$2.97 million (\$578,000 from Commercialisation Fund)**
- **Black Sky Aero (QLD) – Space** – Establish sovereign manufacture of vital precursor materials for solid rocket propellant not currently produced in Australia. This will lead to significant domestic and export market opportunities. **Total project commitment \$1.1 million (\$497,750 from Commercialisation Fund)**

Further details about AMGC's Commercialisation Fund can be found at [www.amgc.org.au/projects/](http://www.amgc.org.au/projects/)

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## **About Advanced Manufacturing Growth Centre (AMGC)**

The Advanced Manufacturing Growth Centre (AMGC) is an industry-led, not-for-profit organisation established through the Australian Government's Industry Growth Centres Initiative. AMGC's vision is to transform Australian manufacturing to become an internationally competitive, dynamic, and thriving industry with advanced capabilities and skills at its core.

Through the delivery of its world-leading research, Manufacturing Academy, workshops, and ground-breaking projects, AMGC aims to develop a highly skilled and resilient local manufacturing industry that delivers high-value products – via the integration of innovative technology – to domestic and international markets.

<http://www.amgc.org.au>

## **About AMGC's Commercialisation Fund**

Commercialisation Fund grants will be between \$100,000 and \$1 million and must be matched by industry. Consistent with all programs under the Modern Manufacturing Strategy, this fund will support projects within the Government's six National Manufacturing Priorities. These priorities are: Medical Products, Food and Beverage, Resources Technology and Critical Minerals Processing, Recycling and Clean Energy, Defence, and Space.

Projects must include collaboration with a research partner and a minimum of one industry partner. The fund will run over an 18-month period and will be managed and administered by AMGC. For more information and to apply for a grant go to <https://www.amgc.org.au/projects/>

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