

MEDIA RELEASE - 14 May 2014

Donation to rekindle interest in science and engineering

Students at Donabate Community College in Dublin will gain hands on experience using technology – which has the potential to have an impact on future manufacturing, medicine and creativity – following the donation of a 3D printer by the Australian Embassy in Ireland

The donation was facilitated through the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Electromaterials Science (ACES), which has strong collaborative research links in Dublin.

ACES Director Professor Gordon Wallace, who will address the students on the latest 3D printing developments at the school on May 19, said the donation will enable students to explore a technology that is already having a significant impact on society.

“Providing students with hands on 3D printing experience has the potential to rekindle their interest in science and engineering. This technology enables us to turn thoughts into things rapidly. It helps put understandable science and engineering back into the process of making things,” he said.

3D printing technology could inspire students to pursue careers in industrial design, engineering, science and biomedical engineering. Already, the technology is being used to create customised tooling, make intricate jewellery and develop innovative medical devices.

ACES has a strong outreach program in Australia. Last year in conjunction with the Wollongong Science Centre, ACES researchers established a 3D printing display and developed an outreach program incorporating live 3D printing demonstrations, to help schools in New South Wales deliver aspects of the science curriculum.

“ACES is keen to build global links not only in research and research training but also in community engagement. We are keen to develop innovative approaches that enable us to take the excitement of science and engineering back to the grass roots of our communities,” Professor Wallace said.

Australian Ambassador to Ireland, Dr Ruth Adler said science plays a critical role in our economic, social and cultural development.

“I’m sure the 3D printer will help generate great ideas at Donabate Community College and inspire a future generation of scientists,” Dr Adler said.

The Donabate Community College has a strong relationship with Australia. In 2013, The college joined forces with Brighton Secondary School, Adelaide in South Australia to form an international miniature car racing team. The team made it to the *F1 in Schools World Final* held in the USA.

Media Opportunity:

Dr Ruth Adler, Australian Ambassador to Ireland will present the 3D printer to students at Donabate Community College on Monday May 19. ACES Director Professor Gordon Wallace will also give a presentation to students outlining the latest in 3D printing developments and applications.

Please contact ACES Communication and Media Officer Sarah McMaster on +61 2 4221 3788 to arrange an interview with Professor Wallace.