

MEDIA RELEASE

23 October 2014

Australia - Korea partnership to develop revolutionary soft robotic systems

Revolutionary soft robotic systems, like those needed to build a prosthetic hand with the dexterity of a human hand, will be developed through a formal partnership between Hanyang University and the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Electromaterials Science (ACES).

The partnership, which will be celebrated today at the Australian Embassy in Korea, consolidates a 20 year research alliance as part of the Australian Government's recent \$25million investment in ACES.

ACES Centre Director Prof. Gordon Wallace said the formal partnership with Hanyang University, and ongoing research ties with other leading Korean institutions, will help translate research into functional devices.

"Our work with Hanyang has already produced significant findings in the area of new materials development for artificial muscles and biofuel cells that have been published in prestigious international journals such as *Science*, *Nature Communications* and *Advanced Materials*," he said.

"Over the next seven years we will apply these research findings to the emerging area of soft robotics and in particular, the development of a multi-digit 3D robotic prosthetic hand which will have both industrial and personal applications," he said.

In addition to Hanyang University, ACES has strong research links with Hanbat University, with whom an international postgraduate degree in electromaterials science is being developed.

Research is also underway with Gangneung-Wonju National University, Dongguk University, the Korean Institute of Machinery and Materials, the Electronics and Telecommunications Research Institute and Suncheon University.

"We are excited to be able to take our research activities in Korea to a new level as ACES enters a new phase of funding that allows us to develop new dimensions in our research, training and social engagement programs," Prof. Wallace said.

"Simultaneous progress in all of these areas is critically important if the obvious commercial opportunities are to be realised. Global collaborations in research and training will give rise to global commercial opportunities."

Media Opportunity:

A showcase of Australian innovation in the area of electromaterials science and its commercialisation potential will be held 23 October 2014 from 4.30pm -7pm (KST) at the Australian Embassy in Korea. The purpose is to celebrate existing research ties between Australia and Korea and encourage new partnerships.

Speakers:

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International) University of Wollongong Joe Chicharo
ACES Centre Director Prof. Gordon Wallace
Director, Corporate Relations, University of Wollongong, Innovation Campus

Interviews with the speakers can be arranged. Please contact:

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electromaterials.edu.au