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## Media Release

### Minister for Science to unveil world-first building design innovation today

A world-first innovation that will significantly reduce the cost of building homes, offices and factories will be unveiled today by Federal Science Minister Peter McGauran.

The innovation – a world-first software design package that automatically estimates quantities and energy consumption - was developed by the Cooperative Research Centre for Construction Innovation (CRC CI) to provide essential quantity and energy information which is currently only available through manual, time consuming and expensive methods.

The software will be demonstrated for the first time today by Research Committee Chair John Oliver at the official launch of the CRC CI.

John Oliver said the tool would be commercialised and aspects of it would soon be used on a daily basis by the construction industry, saving the sector and Australians hundreds of millions of dollars every year.

“Currently the only way of estimating a building’s construction cost is to measure each element of a building manually, which is very slow, labour-intensive, and expensive,” Mr Oliver said.

“This new software tool allows architects, quantity surveyors, environmental scientists, builders and building subcontractors to obtain valuable data - faster, cheaper and more efficiently.

“The innovation would produce benefits for all Australians as the cost of designing and building homes, offices, and factories would be dramatically reduced.”

Mr Oliver said it would also have positive environmental benefits as building energy levels in the design phase would be assessed accurately for the first time.

The invention is the first outcome for the newly formed CRC CI a collaboration involving 19 industry, government and research partners across Australia.

The CRC CI has been made possible through a \$14M Federal Government grant and \$50M in industry, research and other government funding the most significant commitment ever made to construction research in Australia.

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**For further information or images:**

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