

## Media Release

### New Research into 'Smart Building' will make Workplaces Healthier

The Cooperative Research Centre for Construction Innovation (CRC CI)\* has launched a new research project on 'smart building' to help produce healthy and sustainable workplaces which could ultimately save Australia billions of dollars every year.

'Smart Building for Healthy and Sustainable Workplaces' is the name of the new CRC CI project.

CRC CI Chief Executive Officer, Dr Keith Hampson said that the cost of deficient building environments or 'sick buildings' in Australia runs into the tens of billions of dollars.

"These costs are likely to increase over time unless buildings are designed and operated more efficiently and intelligently in the future. Our research is developing smart technologies that will assist this process," Dr Hampson said.

Dr Hampson said there were many benefits for developing smart building technologies that support healthy indoor environments and the energy efficient operation and maintenance of workplaces.

"Businesses will benefit through improved worker productivity while building owners, operators and tenants will benefit through reduced building operation and maintenance costs."

"In addition to the immediate financial benefits to businesses, there are also long-term environmental benefits to the wider community through reduced energy usage," he said.

The smart building research is being conducted by CRC CI partners: CSIRO, Arup Australasia, Bovis Lend Lease, Queensland University of Technology and Queensland Department of Public Works.

Research Project Leader, Dr Greg Foliente of CSIRO said Stage One of the research had already commenced.

"During Stage One we are undertaking a scoping study to review and assess technologies that could measure and control factors important for healthy and sustainable workplaces. We will also develop a proposal for a prototype hardware and software system for smart indoor environment control."

"The long term goal of our project is to develop and implement technologies to support healthy, eco-friendly and commercially viable buildings and facilities, and facilitate triple-bottom line assessment and reporting," he said.

Dr Foliente said there was potential for improving design concepts in both architectural and engineering aspects and in developing new materials, sensors and technologies for future smart-building systems.

"Our research is an important building block towards achieving healthier buildings, healthier Australian workers and a healthier Australian economy," he said.

**ENDS**

***\*The CRC CI is a national collaboration involving 19 industry, government and research partners and has been made possible through a \$14million Federal Government grant through the CRC Program and \$50 million in industry, research and other government funding.***

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