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## Australia invests US\$100 million to set up a new advanced fibers research center

Issue date:29/03/2011

Source: ATA Editorial Team

(Seshadri Ramkumar)

Australian Government and collaborators will invest US\$100 million over a period of three years to set up Australian Future Fibers Research and Innovation Centre (AFFRIC) in Deakin University campus in Geelong, Australia. The funding period is for the period July 2010 - June 2013. Geelong is located 70 kilometers southwest of Melbourne, Australia.

Australian Government through its educational investment fund will provide a total of US\$37 million. AFFRIC is also receiving funding support from Deakin University, CSIRO, Victorian Centre for Advanced Material Manufacturing and the Victoria State Government.

In speaking to this scribe at the international conference of the American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists in Charleston, SC, the US, on March 24, Prof Xungai Wang, Director for Center for Material and Fiber Innovation of Deakin University said the US\$100 million is for capital equipment and infrastructure for the new center. According to Prof Wang, the new center will transform the fiber and composite industry in Australia.

The center has already started functioning with Phase-I funding of US\$ 10 million. The AFFRIC will focus on four primary areas which will involve Carbon Fibers and Composites; Nanofiber Technology; Green Natural Fibers and Functional Fibrous Materials.

The multi-million dollar funding will allow two new buildings to be built on Deakin's Waurn Ponds campus in Geelong, alongside its current Centre for Material and Fiber Innovation. Research at this centre has received the highest score of 5 in the recently released national report on research excellence in Australia.

Wang mentioned that cotton and wool fiber research will be performed within the research platform of natural fibers. Recently, in addition to the US\$ 100 million, Deakin University has provided additional US\$3 million to recruit scientists to work on projects.

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2. Fujifilm Dimatix launches new family of Spectra Polaris 512-jet two-color printheads
3. China's textile and garment exports drop in February
4. ShanghaiTex 2011 to showcase green concepts and advanced technology
5. Thies to make Asian debut for eco-friendly dyeing machine at ShanghaiTex
6. Shima Seiki introduces "entry-level" computerized flat knitting machine
7. Intertextile Beijing Apparel Fabrics 2011 sees 6% increase in exhibitors
8. Technical Absorbents to exhibit Super Absorbent Fiber at INDEX11
9. Hong Kong textile exports hit US\$11.26 billion in 2010
10. TenCate finalizes acquisition of geosynthetics activities of Emas Kiara



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