

BioPRIA's ARC BioPRIA's ARC research grant success



The Minister for Education and Training, Senator the Hon. Simon Birmingham, has announced \$46.6 million for 12 new Research Hubs and Training Centres funded under the Australian Research Council (ARC) Industrial Transformation Research Program (ITRP).

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BioPRIA's (Bioresource Processing Institute of Australia) application for an ARC Research Hub for Processing Lignocellulosics into High Value Products was one of the three Research Hubs to receive support from the Commonwealth Government.

The ARC Research Hub will receive \$2.6 million in ARC funding over 5 years - when combined with contributions from industry partners and Monash University – a total of \$6.8 million will be invested to convert bioresource materials into marketable chemicals and materials like new composites, smart packaging and green chemical intermediates.

Professor Gil Garnier, Director of BioPRIA, welcomed the announcement explaining that “the Hub aims to convert renewable and readily-available biomass material and waste streams from the Australian pulp, paper and forest industry into new, high-value products that are in high demand in existing and developing markets. The Hub will leverage world-leading Australian and international research capabilities in chemistry, materials science, and engineering to create new materials, chemicals, companies and jobs in an emerging and newly diversified Australian bio-economy. Research will identify new applications and products derived from lignocellulose and will feed the pharmaceutical, chemicals, plastics and food packaging industries”

Professor Garnier went on to say that “This is an exciting time for the industry as we are developing new products for existing markets and building a unique knowledge based industry. I am most grateful for the strong support and vision of our founding industry partners of 28 years: Australian Paper, Orora, Norske Skog and Visy and our technology partners Circa, LEAF and Haemokinesis. This transformation Hub would not have been possible without the unconditional support of Monash University. I would also like to thank the Government of Tasmania, Department of State Growth for supporting the grant, and to our collaborative partners, the University of Tasmania, The University of South Australia and our international partner, AgroParis Tech (France). Many thanks to Appita for their guidance and linking with our industry throughout the process”.

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