

15th May 2007

Britain and Australia step on the accelerator

- **Instrument Design Technology (IDT) awarded £1.2 million contract with Major Projects Victoria (MPV) for a beamline @ the Australian Synchrotron Project (ASP)**
- **Deputy Secretary, Business Development for the State Government of Victoria, Australia, to visit Daresbury**

Instrument Design Technology (IDT), based within the Daresbury Science and Innovation Campus (Daresbury SIC), has entered spring in style with a major development on the international stage.

A £1.2 million contract for the Australian Synchrotron Project (ASP) has just been signed by MPV- State Government of Victoria which further expands IDT's worldwide project portfolio.

The new contract comes a year after the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) and the State of Victoria, Australia, (in May 2006). This is tangible evidence of the economic collaboration and mutual business interest being fostered between the two regions.

Jane Niall, the Deputy Secretary, Business Development, at the Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development (DIIRD), for the State Government of Victoria, Australia, visited Daresbury SIC and IDT on 11th May. The visit coincided with the completion of the contract with the ASP and also served as a familiarisation visit of the Daresbury campus and facilities.

IDT's core business is providing the world's particle accelerator science community with design, build and test of state-of-the-art mechanical precision instrumentation together with a project management resource. This is an example of how, at Daresbury SIC, world class science has joined forces with local business, to sell products and services into the global marketplace.

The company specialises in synchrotron beamline instrumentation, which means clearer and more consistent images of minute particles and chemical structures. This groundbreaking technology has implications for scientists in many fields, including: biological research, drug design, medical imaging, forensics and sustainable environments.

Similar technology is already being exploited at the Advanced Photon Source in Chicago, where a team of scientists, using similar synchrotron techniques, has

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shown that Beethoven died of lead poisoning. This was discovered through analysis of strands of the composer's hair that had been passed down through generations of his family¹. The same techniques can play a vital role in identifying exposure to poisonous substances amongst those living today.

Being based at Daresbury SIC provides an opportunity for IDT to be at the heart of exciting developments within the Cockcroft Institute (the National Centre for Accelerator Science) and Daresbury Laboratory. Daresbury's impressive reputation for scientific research and development was underpinned at the official opening event by Lord Sainsbury in September who outlined the UK Science and Innovation Campus Model, highlighting Daresbury and Harwell (in the South East) as the UK's two national centres of scientific excellence.

Paul Murray, Managing Director of IDT said: "We are delighted to be working with the ASP team on this unique beamline development."

Paul Treloar, Business Development Manager at Daresbury SIC, said: "We are delighted to see the world class expertise and track record of IDT in mechanical precision instrumentation recognised in the award of this prestigious contract with the flagship Australian Synchrotron Project."

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Pictured left to right:
Jane Niall, DIIRD, State Government of Victoria, Australia; Richard Gaston, Senior Enquiry Manager, NWDA; Paul Murray, Managing Director, IDT.

Notes to editors:

¹ This research was led by Bill Walsh, chief scientist for the Health Research Institute in Naperville, Illinois, who was principal investigator on the project.

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The Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) leads the economic development and regeneration of England's Northwest and is responsible for:

- **Supporting business growth and encouraging investment**
- **Matching skills provision to employer needs**
- **Creating the conditions for economic growth**
- **Connecting the region through effective transport and communication infrastructure**
- **Promoting the region's outstanding quality of life**