



MEDIA RELEASE

IAN MACFARLANE

Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources

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\$2.8M HELPS WA COMPANY DETECT EXPLOSIVES AT AIRPORTS

An innovative Western Australian company developing an advanced explosives detection system for airport baggage screeners has been awarded \$2.8 million under the Australian Government's *R&D Start* program.

Federal Industry Minister Ian Macfarlane today announced Perth-based company QR Sciences as one of three Western Australian companies awarded more than \$4.4 million under the latest innovation funding round.

Nationally, 17 innovation grants worth more than \$11.4 million were awarded under the *Commercial Ready*, *R&D Start* and *Commercialising Emerging Technologies (COMET)* programs.

Mr Macfarlane said QR Sciences was a world leader in quadruple resonance (QR) applications, a technology that uses radio frequency spectroscopy techniques to identify and detect molecular structures.

"QR technology offers a cost-effective solution to some of the limitations offered by X-ray machines. It is accurate, film-safe, has a low false-alarm rate and requires no operator interpretation," he said.

"With the help of the *R&D Start* grant, QR Sciences will build on their existing QR technologies to develop a new system that better detects explosives which are difficult to uncover using conventional systems.

"It's important work that just needs a little help from the Australian Government to make it through to commercial reality."

Other WA companies to receive innovation grants in this round include:

- **SEATRAC Pty Ltd, of Jandakot**, awarded a \$1,603,806 *Commercial Ready* grant to develop an underwater system for installing, repairing and gathering data from offshore oil and gas wells. The product will be deployed from standard work vessels and will utilise wireline technology to access wells in water up 500m deep. [Contact: Mr J Edwards 08 9414 7200]
- **Meridian Spatial Pty Ltd, of West Perth**, awarded a \$56,000 *COMET* grant to commercialise Compass Enterprise, an enterprise-wide data management system, built on Geographic Information System technology. The technology enables the indexing and searching of documents based on a spatial reference.[Contact: Mr Robert Healy 08 9226 0101]

Contact: QR Sciences Limited: Mr G Pennefather 08 9351 1200

A full list of the latest innovation grants is at www.ausindustry.gov.au

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