



Australian Government

Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research

NATIONAL ENABLING TECHNOLOGIES STRATEGY

KEY POINTS

- The Government has committed \$38.2 million over four years to the National Enabling Technologies Strategy (NETS).
- The Strategy will help Australian industries capitalise on growth opportunities and ensure Australia can benefit from the technologies while addressing potential risks to health, safety and the environment.
- Enabling technologies have applications in many fields of science, industry, environment, agriculture and social outcomes such as health. They are the basis for building knowledge intensive industries that can provide sustainable, high-skill, high-wage jobs for Australians.

Focus for the National Enabling Technologies Strategy

- *A national approach* – the Strategy will work with Federal, State and Territory governments and agencies and a wide range of stakeholders, to encourage collaborative efforts and joint activities consistent with the aims of the Strategy. A Commonwealth/State Working Group will be established under the Strategy to promote collaboration and a coordinated approach to addressing issues related to enabling technologies. A Stakeholder Advisory Council will provide advice on how the Strategy may address important issues that may arise in the development and use of enabling technologies.
- *Balancing risk and reward* – the Strategy will contribute to the development of policy and regulatory frameworks that appropriately cover enabling technologies, and support Government agencies to ensure that Government policy is informed by an understanding of health, safety, environmental, social and economic considerations.

A Working Group of government agencies will continue to facilitate a whole of government approach to the health, safety and environmental implications of enabling technologies.

- *Developing measurement capabilities* – the National Measurement Institute (NMI) has received \$18.2 million under the Strategy to develop measurement infrastructure, expertise and standards for nanotechnology and biotechnology.
- *Engaging with the public* – the Strategy will increase public understanding of enabling technologies and issues surrounding them. It will increase understanding of public concerns and aspirations about enabling technologies by technology developers and those responsible for policy formulation.
- *Using technology for a better future* – the Strategy will increase government, industry and the community's understanding of the ways in which applications of enabling technologies may help to address major global and national challenges and increase industry productivity, and will encourage the responsible development and uptake of these technologies.
- *Planning for the Future* – the Strategy will assist Government, researchers, industry and other stakeholders to prepare for the advent of new technologies by undertaking foresighting activities and supporting the development of policy and regulatory frameworks. An Expert Forum will be established under the Strategy to assess future challenges and opportunities arising from enabling technologies.

Further Information

For more information on the National Enabling Technologies Strategy, please visit the NETS website at www.innovation.gov.au/nets.