

CONNECT

NEWCASTLE INNOVATION NEWS

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INNOVATION™

April 2010

CEO Welcome

Welcome to the first issue of our "Connect" e-newsletter for 2010. 2009 was a surprisingly strong year for commercial and industry engagement, especially given the tough global economic environment that existed for much of the year.

In 2010 Newcastle Innovation will continue to promote research capabilities to potential industry partners. In this issue we feature Associate Professor Tristan Perez who was awarded one of two Newcastle Innovation Rising Star awards in 2009. Tristan has an active research portfolio in mechatronics with a focus on marine and aerospace vehicle motion control systems and robust autonomy of uninhabited vehicles. Please enjoy this feature on Tristan and if you see parallels in your research area for similar opportunities for industry engagement please contact one of our Business Development Managers.

As part of Newcastle Innovation's continuing efforts to improve its ability to effectively engage industry and connect the University's researchers, we are adding business development staff in targeted areas that are aligned with the University's major research areas. Our first new staff member is Dr Nagaraj Gopisetty Venkata. Nagaraj will be spending a significant amount of his time working with the University's health and bio-technology focused researchers to better understand their research, capture any emerging intellectual property and help connect the researchers to potential research partners.

In 2010 we will have a concerted effort to highlight the various research capabilities in the Energy sector residing within the University. We will be developing industry focused research capability profiles to be hosted on our website and widely promoted through incorporation in our industry newsletters and at the many Energy focused events that Newcastle Innovation supports. An early focus for the year will be the annual 2010 Hunter and Central Coast Innovation Festival in which Newcastle Innovation through its engagement with the Enterprise Connect - Clean Energy Innovation Centre (CEIC) will be organizing a nationally significant event focused on clean coal research, development and demonstration facilities.

I hope you enjoy this issue of our Connect newsletter and invite you to contact one of our business development team to discuss your IP or commercial opportunities.

Dr Brent Jenkins

Newcastle Innovation News

Welcome to our latest 'Team' member.

Dr. Nagaraj Gopisetty is the new Business Development Officer at Newcastle Innovation. In his new role, Nagaraj will be mainly responsible for engaging with the various academics and researchers within the Faculty of Health and Faculty of Science and Information Technology who are focused on life science research. He aims to foster strategic relationships with industry, commercial partners and other education and research institutes. Nagaraj will be involved in the process of building a capability database for the Faculties, identifying and managing any new and existing intellectual property, commercialising technologies, identifying and assisting in sourcing non-government sources of funding. He also hopes to identify newer opportunities for scientific and technical advancements through new collaborations and contract research and consultancy opportunities.

Nagaraj has significant experience working in the technology transfer sector. He has been involved in commercialising early stage technologies at the Queensland University of Technology in the life sciences and healthcare sector with an emphasis in biotechnology and pharmaceuticals. If you see Nagaraj in the halls of your research building please introduce yourself and feel free to discuss your research and any potential commercial opportunities with him.

Contact Information

Nagaraj will be located in Room LS3-42 and will spend at least 2 days per week (Tuesdays and Thursdays) in the Life sciences building or alternatively he can be contacted at the offices of Newcastle Innovation in the Industry Development Centre.

Email: Nagaraj.Gopisetty@newcastle.edu.au

Mobile: 0408 239 010

Newcastle Innovation Office Phone: 02 49218777



Newcastle Innovation Limited

P: 02 4921 8777

F: 02 4921 8778

E: innovation@newcastle.edu.au

W: www.newcastleinnovation.com.au

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Featured Researcher Associate Professor Tristan Perez



Originally from Argentina where he completed his Electronics Engineering Degree, Tristan moved to Australia in 1999 to complete his PhD under the supervision of Professor Graham Goodwin. He then worked in the areas of mechatronics and marine technology in both the UK and Norway.

Since 2007, Tristan has been at the University of Newcastle, focusing on his mechatronics research. He has recently been appointed Associate Professor of Mechatronics at the School of Engineering where his work specialises in marine aerospace vehicle control systems and robust autonomy of uninhabited vehicles. He is currently working on two large projects:

- Evaluation of Robust Autonomy for Uninhabited Airborne Systems (UAS), a collaborative project which with Boeing Research and Technology Australia.
- Adaptive and Fault Tolerant Control of Underwater Vehicles, which is being conducted in collaboration with DSTO - Marine Platform Divisions.

Tristan does not work in isolation. He is an associated researcher at the ARC Centre of Excellence for Complex Dynamic Systems and Control where he leads a small team dedicated to research in Marine and Aerospace Systems. Having recently moved to the School of Engineering, he is now collaborating in research related to wind renewable energy with other researchers in the School.

Newcastle Innovation has recently established a new division - Advanced Control and System Dynamics (www.ac-sd.com) Tristan has become a director of this division which provides industry with consultancy services related to analysis and design of control systems.

Newcastle Innovation is proud to support Tristan in his ongoing research and is particularly excited about his work in the emerging area of mechatronics.

Recent Events

Commercialisation Bootcamp

Newcastle Innovation in conjunction with the Australian Institute of Commercialisation held a Commercialisation Bootcamp in late March. Participants came from a variety of disciplines within the University. This professional development opportunity aims to ensure that the University maximises the impact of their world-class research and for researchers to more effectively participate in the process of commercialising this research.

This event is proving to be very popular, so if you would like to receive information of upcoming workshops, please contact kim.m.turner@newcastle.edu.au on 49218777.



Dr Nagaraj Gopisetty welcoming participants to the Bootcamp.

Upcoming Events

Innovation Festival

Newcastle Innovation and the Enterprise Connect Clean Energy Centre (CEIC) will again be supporting the 2010 Hunter Central Coast Innovation Festival.

Event: 'Symposium on Australian Clean Coal: Research, Development and Demonstration'

The symposium is targeted at SMEs from the Hunter region (and beyond). The audience is offered an opportunity to be exposed to the latest information in the technology space from experts in the area and identify the challenges and issues facing the region in relation to coal-fired energy and carbon capture and storage. With both current and future participants in the sector attending, the Symposium will provide a valuable networking opportunity.

When: Thursday, 20 May 2010, 9 am to 5 pm

Where: Industry Development Centre, University Drive, Callaghan (University of Newcastle)

More information, including how to register, will be made available as soon as the Symposium program is finalised. In the interim, you can express your interest by contacting André Urfer on andre.urfer@newcastle.edu.au or (02) 4921 8777.

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P: 02 4921 8777

F: 02 4921 8778

W: www.newcastleinnovation.com.au

E: innovation@newcastle.edu.au

