

\$1 Billion of National Software Grants to Prepare Students for Digital Economy

- \$447 million commercial value industrial software grant to prepare University of Western Australia students and researchers to be Industry 4.0 ready
- An outcome of the Prime Minister's Industry 4.0 Taskforce and part of Siemens' national commitment to support vocational, job-ready education across the country
- Federal Government commits \$5 million funding to help establish network of five Industry 4.0 test laboratories supporting the transition of SMEs to a digital economy - co-funded by industries and universities

Global technology and digitalization giant Siemens today announced an industrial software grant of \$447 million commercial value of Siemens' product lifecycle management (PLM) software to the University of Western Australia (UWA). This grant is part of a broader program of what is expected to amount to about \$1 billion in hi-tech Siemens PLM industrial software grants to select universities across Australia. The grants are designed to prepare students and University researchers to be ready for the fourth industrial revolution (Industry 4.0) – a term coined by Germany to describe the future of manufacturing and industry.

Today's announcement follows the earlier announcement of the first such grant by Siemens to Swinburne University of Technology's 'Factory of the Future' in August this year – the first of the universities to benefit from close industrial partnerships.

To complement this program, the Federal Government today also announced a \$5 million commitment to help establish a network of five Industry 4.0 test laboratories supporting the transition of SMEs to a digital economy - co-funded by industries and universities.

Both announcements are linked to the recommendations and work of the Prime Minister's Industry 4.0 Taskforce – an industry led group established to support improved bilateral relations between Australia and Germany.

Mathias Cormann, the Minister for Finance for Australia and the head of the Australia-Germany Advisory Group believes that investment in technologies and industry collaboration is critical to pushing forward Australia's digital economy.

"I am encouraged to see industry and academia collaborating to drive forward Australia's digital economy. As a nation, our focus should be on driving productivity in existing industries and building our competitive strengths in new ones – all using digital technologies.

"But to do that, we first need to ensure that students, who will be our workforce of the future, have access to the best digital tools and can learn the right skills that will be relevant in future. I welcome Siemens' commitment to helping up-skill our future workforce and prepare them for the fourth industrial revolution," added Minister Cormann.

Michaelia Cash, Acting Minister for Industry Innovation and Science made the test laboratory funding announcement. "The world is entering a fourth industrial revolution where automation and digital technologies provide countries like Australia with unprecedented access to contribute to global value chains. But we need the skills and tools to help our SMEs prepare for the transition," said Minister Cash.

"This money, with co-contribution by the selected universities and industry partnerships, will help establish Industry 4.0 showcases, an innovation platform and a transformation catalyst for our SMEs to support their transition to a digital economy.

"The testlabs will support workforce transformation in many ways including acting as education and training platforms where SMEs can develop Industry 4.0 relevant capabilities."

Speaking on the announcement, visiting global Member of the Managing Board and Siemens' global Chief Technology Officer Dr. Roland Busch noted that the grant to UWA was a strong boost of confidence in Australia and the nation's potential to innovate.

“Australian ingenuity is world-renowned. As global market places prepare for the fourth industrial revolution, Australia has the ability to ride the digital wave. Companies such as MRX Technologies and Firewire Surfboards and products such as Siemens’ Fusesaver are testament to the fact that local Australian innovations can make a significant impact globally.”

“The opportunities in Australia to benefit from digitalization are immense – and with the right digital tools we are only limited by our imaginations. In many ways this is like speaking the same digital language so we can collaborate globally in our trade and value chains.”

UWA Vice-Chancellor Professor Dawn Freshwater said the software grant from Siemens was a remarkable contribution to the education of UWA students, now and into the future.

“UWA wants to enhance its reputation as an institution of tomorrow; a place that empowers and equips students for the careers of the future, some which haven’t been created yet,” Professor Freshwater said.

“This unique software will help us do just that as well as providing our students with invaluable access to some of the world’s most advanced and powerful software tools which have been used on NASA Mars missions and the development of the new Joint Strike Fighter project.”

“The government grant for the testlabs will also be used to help establish UWA’s planned Industry 4.0 testlab, known as the LNG Futures Facility. The specialised software will enable a team led by Professor May to create a digital twin of a physical LNG plant, providing an entirely new training capability for tomorrow’s workforce and allowing Australian innovators access to facilities essential for technology development,” said Professor Freshwater.

“I would like to thank Siemens for their generosity and foresight in providing this opportunity.”

The Siemens PLM software grant provides a suite of advanced PLM software and ensures UWA will have access to the same advanced software, processes and best practices that

are used to develop some of the most sophisticated global products and systems in industries including automotive, aerospace, shipbuilding, high-tech electronics and more. PLM software tools are used in everything from Ben Ainslie Racing in the America's Cup, Firewire surfboard design, Red Bull Racing F1 and even the Mars Rover. Siemens' PLM solutions include digital product development, digital manufacturing and product data management. The suite includes power tools such as the Teamcenter® portfolio for engineering collaboration, NX™ software for 3D design, the Simcenter™ portfolio for predictive engineering simulation and analytics and the Tecnomatix® portfolio which includes digital avatars.

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Siemens AG (Berlin and Munich) is a global technology powerhouse that has stood for engineering excellence, innovation, quality, reliability and internationality for more than 165 years. The company is active in more than 200 countries, focusing on the areas of electrification, automation and digitalization. One of the world's largest producers of energy-efficient, resource-saving technologies, Siemens is a leading supplier of efficient power generation and power transmission solutions and a pioneer in infrastructure solutions as well as automation, drive and software solutions for industry. The company is also a leading provider of medical imaging equipment – such as computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging systems – and a leader in laboratory diagnostics as well as clinical IT. In fiscal 2016, which ended on September 30, 2016, Siemens generated revenue of €79.6 billion and net income of €5.6 billion. At the end of September 2016, the company had around 351,000 employees worldwide. Further information is available on the Internet at www.siemens.com.

Background

About the Prime Minister's Industry 4.0 Taskforce

The PM's Taskforce is a direct outcome of recommendations made by the Australia Germany Advisory Group (AGAG), which was established in 2015 following the G20 meeting in Australia. The German Chancellor and Australian Prime Minister agreed to increase bilateral relations. Mathias Cormann led AGAG which made a number of recommendations. One of these was around leveraging the German efforts around preparing for Industry 4.0 – a concept Germany uses to describe the future of manufacturing and industry which is rapidly changing due to disruptive technology advances especially in the areas of automation and digitalization.

A taskforce was established, made up of a coalition of the willing representing industry, academia and government. In April this year the Australian Prime Minister's Industry 4.0 Taskforce signed a

collaboration agreement with Germany's equivalent Plattform Industry 4.0 Group. The structure and workstreams of the PM's taskforce replicate those of Germany's - and significant contributions have been made with highlights especially in the areas of the workstreams of standards, test laboratories and future of work.

About the test laboratories

The Test Laboratories work stream of the Prime Minister's Industry 4.0 Taskforce is chaired by Professor Aleksandar Subic, Deputy Vice Chancellor Research and Development Swinburne University of Technology.

"With SMEs playing such an important part of Australian industry, 'testlabs' and 'use cases' are a strategic necessity to help SMEs test Industry 4.0 applications with benchmark automation and digitalization technologies.

"The work already done between Australia and Germany as part of the Prime Minister's Industry 4.0 Taskforce has been well received including a presentation at the pre G20 conference in Berlin earlier this year. I congratulate Professor Aleks Subic and his team. Professor Subic has been instrumental in the national approach and has been the driving force of the PLM grants program beyond Swinburne – taking a much needed holistic approach to the prerequisites of Australian universities and educational institutions.

"His leadership in the test labs workstream of the PM's taskforce will help accelerate SMEs on the digitalization journey. The first PLM software grant to Swinburne paves the way for other university partnerships such as UWA. Similar approaches are planned in South Australia, NSW and Queensland. Siemens PLM industrial software has such a vast array of advanced capabilities. With each grant, we will work closely with the universities to establish their areas of innovation and future research opportunities in the areas of digitalization. As we have with Swinburne and UWA, we will then match the relevant software from PLM's entire suite for the grants. The first grant to Swinburne is only the first phase of potential further grants to Swinburne as they advance and innovate the program.

"In many ways, in the past Australian educational institutions have looked locally to their competition. In future, complementary programs across Australia could establish the combined view of Australian education as a global force to be reckoned with. The combination of PLM software grants to develop students as well as the commitment for those selected universities to establish test laboratories with industry to support SMEs, will certainly accelerate the necessary changes to make Australia more globally competitive."

Jeff Connolly, Chairman and CEO of Siemens Australia and New Zealand, and Chairman of the Prime Minister's Industry 4.0 Taskforce.

About the Industry 4.0 apprenticeship program

The Industry 4.0 Higher Apprenticeship Pilot Program is a collaborative project between Siemens, Swinburne University and Ai Group – with Federal Government. The first-of-its-kind project in Australia launched in September 2016 with aim to create one of the first Industry 4.0 Apprenticeship Programs within the Higher Education sector focusing on skills around digitalisation, internet of things, cloud technologies, data analytics and cyber physical systems.

The two-year apprenticeship program has been designed to develop the skills for the future workforce required for Industry 4.0 and the connectivity and interaction between cyber and physical systems in advanced manufacturing. It focuses on the end-to-end digitalization of all physical assets and integration into digital ecosystems with value chain partners globally.