



Tiny science draws a big crowd

Over 700 nanotech experts from more than 24 countries are in Sydney today at the 2010 International Conference on Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (ICONN).

NSW Chief Scientist and Scientific Engineer, Professor Mary O’Kane, said the conference would address some of the latest breakthroughs in nanotechnology.

Nanotechnology is the science of the very small. It involves the use of materials measured in billionths of a metre.

“ICONN brings industry, government and the research sector together to explore advances in the field of nanoscience and nanotechnology,” Professor O’Kane said

“NSW, and Australia more generally, have been quick to grasp the potential of nanotechnology.”

“But we must take a balanced approach by investing in research and technology while also addressing concerns about environmental health and workplace safety.

“In 2007, NSW was the first Australian State or Territory to initiate a parliamentary inquiry into the risks and benefits of nanotechnology and its applications.

“The NSW Government is working collaboratively with the Federal Government and other State governments to pursue our goal to implement a national approach to nanotechnology regulation.

Professor O’Kane said she was delighted that Sydney had won the bid for this major international conference.

“The four day conference is set to attract 700 delegates and is expected to generate more than \$2 million in economic returns from the event alone,” she said

“NSW is seen as an important player in the nanotechnology and metrology field. There will be long-term benefits and connections from this event.

Jon Hutchison, CEO of Business Events Sydney (BESydney) said BESydney won the bid to host the conference in 2008.

“Sydney’s reputation in the fields of science and medicine was a major reason for the win. Sydney was also chosen for its reputation as a leading business hub and for its unique leisure facilities,” Mr Hutchison said.

For more information about ICONN 2010 visit: www.ausnano.net/iconn2010/