

MEDIA RELEASE

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Science teachers stay a step ahead with new technology

Nanotechnology is changing the face of science but a group of Australian science teachers are aiming to stay one step ahead.

About 60 teachers from across the State as well as Victoria and South Australia will attend a two-day professional development conference in Hobart **tomorrow** (Tuesday, 2 December) and **Wednesday** (3 December) to gain an insight into the industry, including new developments and practical tools and resources for classroom teaching.

Teachers will be introduced to the latest research and developments in nanotechnology through guest presentations, forums and practical laboratory exercises.

UTAS School of Agricultural Science conference co-ordinator Dr David Russell said the growth of nanotechnology has seen it now being included in the Tasmanian school science curriculum.

“This conference is offering an opportunity for Tasmanian science teachers to learn more about new developments within the field from industry experts, and take back ideas for classroom teaching and practical laboratory exercises,” he said.

Nanotechnology refers to the science of extremely small particles, which because of their size, are different in chemical and physical properties therefore making unusual products.

Nanotechnology is measured in nanometres, where one nanometre is approximately the length that a fingernail grows in one second.

Dr Russell said many industries have already adopted the new technology, which can now be found in products including sunscreen, paint and anti-ageing creams.

The conference is being held at the UTAS School of Agricultural Science, Life Sciences Building, Sandy Bay Campus, Hobart.

Guest presenters include Dr Paul McCormick (Antaria Pty Ltd), Dr Jeanette Pritchard (Nanovic), Mr Brent Banham (Flinders University, South Australia) and Dr Amanda Clarke (Nanoshine Program).

The event is being hosted by the National Primary Industry Centre for Science Education (PICSE) and the UTAS School of Agricultural Science.

Coinciding with the conference, the Department of Economic Development and Tourism is holding the networking event *Nanotechnology – an Insight*, on Wednesday, December 3.

For more information/interviews contact:

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