

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

DATE: FRIDAY 8 AUGUST 2008

ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



UTAS an important player in developing an innovative economy

University of Tasmania Vice-Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew has welcomed a new report revealing UTAS as an integral player in developing and supporting innovation in the Tasmanian economy.

Initial results from the ground-breaking *Tasmanian Innovation Census*, headed by Professor Keith Smith and released today, found that 142 innovating firms across the State are collaborating with UTAS, which is 12.7 per cent of all firms involved in innovation activity.

“This suggests a much stronger role for UTAS in the regional innovation economy than has been previously realised,” a report into the initial Census results says.

Professor Le Grew said the Census highlighted the importance of partnerships between the State Government, the University and Tasmanian firms and industries to build a dynamic and robust economy.

“What these early results confirm is the deep and productive partnerships which are already in place between our first-class researchers and Tasmanian businesses to ensure we keep the Tasmanian economy growing and expanding into new areas,” Professor Le Grew said.

“As a University, we are committed to remaining at the cutting edge of research and development: this is natural fit with the desires of our local industries to also remain world leaders in their field.”

The first report on the Census also found Tasmania has a deeper science-based economy than first thought, with scientific research and development a significant component of innovation across a range of firms and industries.

The Census is being conducted on behalf of the Tasmanian Department of Economic Development and Tourism by the Australian Innovation Research Centre, headed by Professor Jonathon West and based within the University.

* Census overview is attached as a separate document.

Information Released by:

The Media Office, University of Tasmania

Phone: (03) 6226 2124 Mobile: 0417 517 291

Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au