

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

**NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

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## **New science resource aims to link industry and classrooms**

A NEW science education resource is aiming to strengthen links between the science industry and classrooms in a bid to arrest the decline in pre-tertiary student numbers.

The *Science Links: Teachers and Local Industries – Scientific Investigations for Students* teacher resource pack was officially launched at the University of Tasmania's Council meeting held in Burnie today.

University Council members joined local industry representatives, teachers and students for the launch at the Burnie City Council Chambers.

"There has never been a more urgent need to promote science in schools with recent research from the Australian Council of Educational Research suggesting science education across Australia is in a state of crisis," UTAS School of Agricultural Science resource project co-ordinator Dr David Russell said.

"This teacher resource pack is aiming to bridge the gap between the science industry and the classroom.

"Teachers and students will have access to scientific investigations that reflect the latest industry practices and technologies."

The pack is a co-operative effort between the *ASISTM Partnerships in Science and Education* and *Skilling the Cradle Coast for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* programs, hosted by the School of Agricultural Science at the UTAS Cradle Coast campus.

These programs are designed to link teachers and students with local industries, helping to provide pathways from school to university and industry and professional development for teachers.

"A lot of the resources have already been trialled in schools and at teacher workshops with very positive feedback," Dr Russell said.

The pack contains resources for teachers and students undertaking scientific investigations including the CD-ROM *Science Adventures with Igor*.

It also features practical information for teachers to link with three uniquely different Tasmanian industries, providing real-world examples and ideas on adapting activities to other industries.

### **For more information contact**

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