

IBM Global Research and Development Lab Announcement

Glen Boreham Speech

Prime Minister Gillard, Premier Brumby, Minister Carr, Professor Davis, and other distinguished guests.

Good morning and thank you for your interest in this truly exciting announcement.

As you've already heard, today's announcement is significant on so many levels. It reflects the world-class research talent we have at our disposal in this country. It demonstrates a deep shared commitment between government, academia and business, towards the pursuit of a better world.

And it also highlights the opportunity we have to tackle some of the most pressing challenges facing our world – around natural resources, disaster management and life sciences to name a few.

For me though, today's announcement demonstrates how far Australia has come as a provider of high-value technical and research expertise.

IBM invests more in research and development than any other like company in the world – \$6 billion last year... and we spread those investment dollars across the planet – wherever we believe there are the best skills, opportunities and local support.

I am delighted to say that, over the last decade, Australia has become an increasingly important and growing destination for IBM's R&D investment.

Since 2006, the IBM Australia Development Lab has played a key role in developing many of IBM's global products. Today, we have skilled software engineers in nine Australian locations working closely with other IBM R&D teams, around the world.

And, in February, we established the IBM Research Collaboratory in Life Sciences at the University of Melbourne.

So we are proud to contribute in our own way to Australia's long-term expertise in research and development.

This expertise, our pool of talent, is why IBM chose Australia for our new global research and development lab created to support our smarter planet initiatives - for example, recent initiatives such as the *Smart Grid Smart City* announcement made by Energy Australia last week. This project will showcase a smart grid across five sites in the Hunter and Sydney regions. Delivering smarter, greener and more efficient energy.

And, with Queensland Motorways, who won significant international recognition last month for its implementation of free-flowing tolling. Delivering significant travel time savings and improved traffic flow to motorists.

These are just two current, practical examples of how this global research and development lab will be an important contributor to a better Australia

Delivering these types of real solutions will be further enhanced by Australia rolling out a ubiquitous broadband network. This will underpin our ability to deliver solutions that reach out to regional and remote parts of our country.

I would like now to take the opportunity to specifically acknowledge and thank three distinct groups of people - who have been instrumental in making today happen.

The first group is the broad Australian research community whose skills have attracted this lab to Australia. I particularly want to call out our partner - the University of Melbourne and its leaders Glyn and Peter - with whom we have developed a very strong collaborative relationship with.

Secondly, I want to thank the relevant governments. As I have said before the Victoria State Government, lead by Premier Brumby, is clearly the leader in our country in its support of technology and innovation.

I also want to thank the federal government, lead by Prime Minister Gillard and supported by Senators Carr and Conroy, whose innovation agenda and digital economy strategy are creating an environment which is attracting investments such as the one we have announced today.

And then finally, I would like to thank my many thousands of colleagues in Australia whose talent and commitment to our company has contributed to today's announcement.

IBM has been part of Australia since 1932 and I truly believe today's announcement is the most significant in our 78 year history.

I look forward to many ground breaking discoveries coming out of this global research and development lab in the years to come.

Thank you.