

IBM Opens Research and Development Laboratory in Australia

Andrew Stevens' Address

14th October, 2011

Premier Ballieu, Minister Carr, Minister Rich-Phillips, Professor Davis, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen...

The opening of the R&D Lab is a landmark event in the history of IBM Australia... reflecting our importance as a centre of expertise in the global IBM corporation...

It is the ultimate recognition that Australia has a key role to play in IBM's R&D future.

As Dr Kelly said, IBM's decision to locate the Lab here in Melbourne is testimony to the support of both the Federal and State governments – and a tribute to the very strong working relationship between IBM and the University of Melbourne.

On behalf of IBM Australia, let me formally thank you all for your invaluable support.

But the choice of location for this unique facility is also a recognition of the depth of talent here in Australia... of how far Australia has come as a provider of high-value technical and research expertise.... of our potential to make an important contribution to the global research agenda from right here in Australia.

While the R&D Lab is already attracting world class researchers to our shores... more importantly it will offer local scientists the opportunity to work on ground breaking research – further building Australia’s reputation as a global research destination...

And providing a shot in the arm for the Australian brand in the global services economy...

So, this is big news for Australia’s research community...

But it is even bigger news for IBM’s clients... and not just because it gives them local access to IBM’s global research network...

This new facility offers Australia’s business and government organisations extraordinary opportunities... because the capabilities we have assembled here... are the deep analytical, research and innovation skills that organisations need to solve their most intractable problems.

In fact, we are issuing a challenge to our clients: we are asking them to bring us the impossible – the issues they do not believe can be solved.... and we will focus some of the world’s best scientific and business minds, and the fastest supercomputers in the world on finding the answers.

That’s a bold claim, but we are confident we can deliver for two reasons:

First, because the R&D Lab can draw on the immense, global capability of IBM Research... one of the world's most prestigious industrial research organisations...

Second, because the Lab is located within an existing hub of innovation.

Victoria already boasts a world class R&D community and the infrastructure to facilitate cutting-edge technology research. Our neighbours and colleagues include the University of Melbourne, the Institute for a Broadband Enabled Society and the Victorian Life Sciences Computation Initiative, home to one of the world's largest life sciences supercomputers, as well as CSIRO and NICTA?.

Working in collaboration with these prestigious technical and scientific communities – and our clients' own R&D resources – we look forward to making breakthrough discoveries to solve our clients' most pressing problems... and help them seize previously unthinkable opportunities.

This is why, for IBM Australia and our clients, this is indeed a landmark event in our history..

Thank you all for joining us to commemorate this important occasion.