



Anthony Roberts
Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy

MEDIA RELEASE

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WOLLONGONG UNI CENTRE TO BOOST STARTUPS

Minister for Industry, Resources and Energy Anthony Roberts was in the Illawarra today officially to open the iAccelerate Centre at the University of Wollongong's Innovation Campus.

Mr Roberts said the new Centre, in part supported by the NSW Government with \$16.5 million through the Restart Illawarra Infrastructure Fund, would further enhance the region's growing reputation as an innovation hub.

"The University's \$500 million Innovation Campus technology precinct is providing an outstanding collaborative environment for information and communication technology companies to work with the University's world class research teams," he said.

"I applaud the University for moving quickly to bring this exciting project to fruition providing an environment where start-ups can flourish and businesses can grow.

Mr Roberts said since it launched the iAccelerate program has already supported 65 companies and created more than 140 jobs.

"The new iAccelerate Centre will create space for more than 280 entrepreneurs, offering a three-storey, 4,000 square metre facility comprising 39 offices, 12 meeting rooms and 2 co-working spaces.

"With the opening of the iAccelerate Centre, the University is making a significant investment in further developing the innovation ecosystem in the Illawarra and helping the region to adapt and thrive in an ever-changing, globalised future.

"NSW is already home to just under 50 per cent of the nation's start-ups, which is more than any other State in Australia.

"We want to see that grow and, with iAccelerate now up and running, we expect that the Illawarra will be a significant contributor," he said.

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