

Minister Macfarlane Applauds Australian Innovation



Science innovation and water security were highlights as the Australian Minister for Industry and Science Ian Macfarlane officially opened proceedings at the annual international meeting of Landsat Satellite Co-operators held in Canberra on 15 June 2015. Scientists from 19 nations met to share strategies for using an unbroken 36-year view of planet Earth to address challenges both in Australia and across the globe. Representatives will collaborate as a global group to ensure the greatest possible benefit from Landsat satellites to all countries.

Mr Macfarlane said that the Government's participation in forums like this helps exhibit Australian science and innovation to the world and provides opportunities for Australia's digital industries to enter the global space marketplace. Australia's Data Cube technology, developed by Geoscience Australia, makes it possible to utilise massive amounts of satellite data more quickly and inexpensively than ever before, to develop new digital products and services with global potential.

According to the minister, Earth observations from satellites support growth in key industry sectors such as agriculture, oil and gas discovery and mining services. Satellite data is also used to develop new solutions to address issues such as floods, bushfires and drought, as well as protection of the environment and natural assets, including the iconic Great Barrier Reef.