



AuScope wins \$23million EIF bid to establish the Australian Geophysical Observing System (AGOS)

Yesterday, the Minister for Industry Innovation, Science and Research, Senator Kim Carr announced the success of AuScope's EIF bid for \$23million to establish the Australian Geophysical Observing System (AGOS).

AGOS is designed to augment existing NCRIS AuScope infrastructure with new capability that focuses particularly on emerging geophysical energy issues. This infrastructure will add new capabilities through the first national subsurface observatory, designed to allow geoscience researchers to conduct experiments to monitor the physical state of the Australian continent at depths of up to 5 km.

It will build the integrated infrastructure that facilitates maximum scientific return from the massive geo-engineering projects that are now being considered – such as deep geothermal drilling – in effect building the platform for treating these as mega geophysical science experiments.

AuScope AGOS infrastructure will enable collection of new baseline data including surface geospatial and subsurface imaging and monitoring data, thereby providing for better long-term management of crustal services, particularly in our energy-rich sedimentary basins.

It will build on the infrastructure developed by AuScope in geospatial and imaging areas making available new seismometers, borehole strain meters, GPS stations, and a host of other scientific instruments to provide new capability exploring new realms of the continent – from the ocean fringe to the deepest levels of the crust accessible by drilling. This targeted investment will deliver an integrated observing system across the Nation involving:

- Geospatial Observatory: lead nodes ANU and Geoscience Australia
- Earth Sounding Network: lead nodes ANU and University of Adelaide
- Subsurface Observatory: lead nodes University of Melbourne and University of Adelaide
- Geohistory Laboratory: lead nodes University of Melbourne and John de Laeter Centre Curtin University
- Inversion Laboratory: University of Queensland and ANU
- Geophysical Education Observatory: Macquarie University

Coinvestors in the project include the following AuScope partners and organisations:

- Australian National University
- GeoScience Victoria
- University of Queensland
- Geological Survey Queensland
- University of Adelaide
- PIRSA
- University of Melbourne
- CSIRO
- Curtin University (JdLCMS)
- Petratherm Limited
- Macquarie University
- AuScope Limited
- Geoscience Australia

AuScope Limited is a non-profit member-based company formed to facilitate the collaborative implementation of a world-class infrastructure system for earth science through the delivery of a range of technologies and capabilities in data acquisition, management, modelling and simulation across the geospatial and geoscience spectrum to underpin our understanding of the Australian Continent.

Dr Bob Haydon
AuScope CEO