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- THE HON DR  
CRAIG EMERSON  
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Minister for Small  
Business, Independent  
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Service Economy
- THE HON RICHARD  
MARLES MP  
Parliamentary Secretary  
for Innovation and  
Industry

Media Release

Senator the Hon Kim Carr

29 Jun 2010

## NATIONAL OBSERVING SYSTEM TO PROBE EARTH

Joint media release with the Parliamentary Secretary for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, the Hon Maxine McKew MP

The Australian Government will invest \$23 million in a new Australian Geophysical Observing System (AGOS) to increase our understanding of the earth's crust and its resources.

AuScope Limited, a consortium of 23 universities, government bodies and research organisations, will develop the revolutionary system.

Australian Government funding is through the Education Investment Fund (EIF) Round 3.

The AGOS will have infrastructure across Australia. Key sites will include Macquarie University in North Ryde NSW, the University of Melbourne in Parkville and the Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra.

"The AGOS will be the first national subsurface observatory capable of monitoring the physical state of the Australian continent," Senator Carr said.

"Spreading AGOS across Australia will maximise scientific returns and support for the massive geo-engineering projects now being considered – such as deep geothermal drilling.

"Australia is already a recognised world leader in geoscience, and this investment will help us remain at the forefront of this increasingly important field."

The Government's \$23 million investment is leveraging a further \$82 million from the project partners: AuScope, the University of Melbourne, the ANU, the University of Queensland, the University of Adelaide, Curtin University, Geoscience Australia, Primary Industry Resources SA, Geoscience Victoria, Petratherm, and Geological Survey Queensland.

"This project is an outstanding example of strategic collaboration across sectors," Senator Carr said.

Federal Member for Bennelong, Maxine McKew, said Macquarie University will host the Geophysical Education Observatory component of the AuScope AGOS EIF project.

"Macquarie University is the perfect location to host one of AGOS's major sites," Ms McKew said.

Macquarie's role will include developing real-time digital connections to AGOS through the seismometers-in-schools program.

"This will be a unique opportunity to integrate scientific research and education by engaging students, teachers and the public in an experiment that is going on across the country," said Ms McKew.

"I look forward to seeing the benefits this project will bring to my local community," Ms McKew said.

The Government has committed more than \$4 billion from the EIF since 2008, to build a modern, productive, internationally competitive Australian economy. EIF is supporting world-leading, strategically-focused infrastructure investments that will transform Australian tertiary education and research.

To learn more about the EIF, go to [www.deewr.gov.au/eif](http://www.deewr.gov.au/eif).

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