

12TH INTERNATIONAL COMS CONFERENCE

THE BIG MICRO NANO EVENT

MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA 2 - 6 SEPTEMBER 2007



COMS2007

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Commercialization
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Welcome

Welcome to the final e-newsletter for [COMS 2007](#), the 12th annual conference on Commercialization of Micro and Nano Systems, held in beautiful Melbourne, Australia, Sept 2-6, 2007.

COMS2007 Melbourne – an outstanding success!

The Melbourne weather turned it on for us in style. Beautiful sunny 20 degree days, a fantastic clear night view of the city skyline for the conference dinner.

A host of extra curricular activities for our delegations and visitors. Everything from cute fairy penguins toddling over the dunes to superb vineyard vistas. For those who couldn't leave science and technology alone we offered visits to some of the world's best research centres from "Stem Cell" research to material science.

This year we organised several special events as a part the conference activities such as the Education Day, open to teachers, students and the general public, at the BMW Edge Theatre at Federation Square. An impressive glass structure with views across the picturesque Yarra River that flows through the city, to the Botanical Gardens beyond. Bright and early on the Wednesday morning three of our intrepid internationals, Kees Eijkel (Netherlands), Lou Hermans (Belgium) and Bob Mehalso (USA) were guest speakers at a breakfast seminar hosted by Engineers Australia – the Australian Society of Engineers.

And so to the conference itself.

The Governor of Victoria, Professor David de Kretser and Mrs Jan de Kretser, invited us to a Sunday evening reception at Victoria's Government House. The Governor's welcome speech highlighted education and workforce development as key issues in these emerging new technologies. The Victorian Minister for Innovation, Mr Gavin Jennings, followed and emphasised the role of micro and nanotechnology in "Greentech".

Monday morning saw Mr Evan Thornley, the Parliamentary Secretary, and founder of the NASDAQ listed "LookSmart", open the conference and give our



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first plenary stressing the need for nanotechnology to progress in balance with ethical and societal concerns.

The second of our plenary speakers, Prof Hiroshi Yokoyama from the AIST in Japan, described how Japan had lost ground in manufacturing and how they were moving to win it back.

Following coffee we were off and running in 4 streams – Biotechnology and Life Sciences, Manufacturing, Emerging Materials and Emerging Applications with keynotes from Prof Yoshinobu Baba, Dr Erol Harvey and Dr Gil Herrera.

On Tuesday our first plenary, Dr Richard Jefferson, challenged us over locking up IP in preference to making platform technology available as “open source” to accelerate innovation. Prof Mandyam Srinivasan then showed us how the humble honey bee maneuvers across the countryside using the most elegant simple navigation system. We have so much to learn from Mother Nature.

Then followed streams in Water, Energy, “Applications and Transformations”, Food and Agriculture, Investment and IP with keynotes from Prof Max Lu, Dr Paul Holper, Dr Leo Hyde, Prof Masayoshi Esashi, Dr Herwig Kirchberger, Dr Ray Radosevich and Dr Peter Tsepeleff.

Mid afternoon we broke from the talks and leapt on buses for visits to the Australian Stem Cell Centre, the new Australian Synchrotron and MiniFAB, followed by a casual dinner at the Great Provider Restaurant at the Small Technologies Cluster. Entertainment for the evening featured a whip cracking display with several of our members exhibiting their skills.

Wednesday, Patric Salomon opened up on activities in Europe as we explored individual countries in our Global Overview. We investigated Business Methods and Dr Michael Pitkethly explained what the UK was doing and Dr Janusz Brysek showed us how to make our next \$Billion in the stream “Pure Play Foundries: Hot Commodity?”. Dr Donald Bruce delved into societal impacts and risks and we couldn't have a COMS without our Dr David Tolfree chairing a HARMST stream.

The amazing Gaye Hamilton outshone us all by rallying children to show us what the future was really going to look like and I must admit it looks very bright. The Minister for Skills and Workforce Participation, Ms Jacinta Allen, launched the Nanotechnology Victoria (NanoVIC) “Nanobits” education kit. And surprise, surprise, our Prof Steve Walsh got sick of us grown ups and ran down the street to the Education Day at BMW Edge Theatre, Federation Square, and joined the kids.

And in amongst all that activity the folks from Mexico (COMS2008) kept us well lubricated with lashings of primo Tequila.

For COMS all that was left was the conference dinner at “Carousel” on Albert Park Lake – a great end to a great conference but still we had our winners to announce.

Our Commercialisation Competition Winner: Lobo Vaccines (Randal Cannady representing the team from the University of New Mexico). The cheque for \$5,000 (Australian) is in the mail.

Our Coventor Scholarship winner – Norizan Mohamad, Swinburne University.

Our Olympus Award winners (with our sincere thanks to Olympus):

- Best Abstract/Paper: Sue Neuen - Orange County Science Centre, California.



Silver:

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- Best Conference Presentation: David Martin – Australian Institute of Sport. Are we using technology as a Sword or Shield?
- Best New Application: Malcolm Gower for showing us some amazing possibilities with negative refractive index.
- Best Business Opportunity: Janusz Brysek for pulling together a superb stream on foundries and setting us on the path to billion dollar opportunities.
- Best Education and Workforce Development Presentation: Brian Stratling for showing us what a bright world our children see before them.

On behalf of the hosts and organisers of COMS2007 Melbourne, may I say that we thoroughly enjoyed showing everyone around our town, the endeavours of our researchers and micro and nanotechnology businesses, renewing friendships and most of all, engaging with so many members of our international small technologies community who journeyed to Melbourne.

In every conference there are gems – for me this year with thanks to Sue Neuen, Orange County Science Centre - "the keys to new knowledge creation are to learn, unlearn and relearn" – exceptional!

And that was COMS 2007 in a nutshell.

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Clive Davenport, [MANCEF](#) President and Chair of [COMS2007](#) stated that "We are very fortunate to have strong support from a leading player in the community. EVG has been a strong supporter of MANCEF and COMS and the entire Joint Organizing Committee thanks EV Group for their support."

Herwig Kirchberger, Business Development Manager of EVG, said "We are pleased to support MANCEF and COMS2007 in their goal of accelerating the commercialization of small technologies."

For more information on EVG, please contact Herwig Kirchberger at H.Kirchberger@EVGroup.com or refer to EVG's website at www.EVGroup.com.

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