The following information may be of use to you, your research teams and students:

1. INFORMATION FOR ARC LINKAGE PROJECT GRANT APPLICANTS
   As advised in the last Update, the Linkage Projects Funding Rules for funding commencing in 2009 are now available from the ARC website http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/lp/lp_fundingrules.htm. As in previous years, there will be two rounds of 2008 Linkage Projects applications (for funding commencing in 2009) – one closing in May and one in November.

   Information Session
   An information session for prospective applicants will be held on Monday March 17th. At the session, Linkage Grant awardees and ORD staff will talk through the application process. Topics to be covered include: the planning process, how to find your partners, managing those partners, the application process, partner contributions, assessment, tips and pitfalls.

   Date: 17th March 2008
   Time: 10am to 12pm
   Venue: Seminar Room 312:222 (Applied Geology)
   RSVP To: J.Gaugg@curtin.edu.au

   The session will be available via ilecture for staff unable to attend.

   Closing Date Round 1 - EOI
   Applicants intending to submit a proposal in Round 1 are required to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to the Office of Research and Development (ORD). Please complete the attached EOI form and submit it to Jenni Gaugg in ORD (J.Gaugg@curtin.edu.au) no later than 5pm Monday 3rd March 2008. The EOI will then be reviewed by the Deans of Research in a manner similar to that introduced for Discovery Project applications this year and feedback provided to strengthen the application, where relevant.

   Closing Date Round 1 – Full Applications
   One hard copy of the final application for Round 1 is to be submitted to ORD by 5pm Monday 14th April 2008.

2. ARC DISCOVERY INDIGENOUS RESEARCHERS DEVELOPMENT FUNDING RULES NOW AVAILABLE
   The Funding Rules for the ARC Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development (DIRD) scheme are now available at: http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/dird/dird_fundingrules.htm

   DIRD provides support for Indigenous Researchers to undertake research projects which may lead to an advance in the understanding of a subject or contribute to the solution of an important practical problem. Indigenous Researcher Fellowships are available under DIRD.

   DIRD also provides funding for research projects undertaken by Indigenous Researchers as part of the requirements of their postgraduate research degrees.
The objectives of DIRD are to:

a. develop the research expertise of Indigenous Researchers who have not participated as a Chief Investigator on a project funded under any of the ARC’s other funding schemes or previously been awarded an ARC Fellowship;
b. support fundamental research and research training by Indigenous Australian individuals and teams;
c. provide Indigenous Researchers with experience in the preparation of research funding Proposals; and
d. expand Australia’s knowledge base and research capability.

One hard copy of the application is to be submitted to the Office of Research and Development no later than Friday 18 April 2008.

3. THE MARIE CURIE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH STAFF EXCHANGE SCHEME (IRSES) – CALL FOR ASSESSORS PLUS CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The European Commission has published a call for the a new scheme: the Marie Curie International Research Staff Exchange Scheme (IRSES)

Call for Assessors
The European commission is looking for Australian evaluators having a demonstrated experience in managing and/or evaluating international research projects with a relevant scientific background. Potential evaluators have to register very quickly on the website: https://cordis.europa.eu/emmfp7/. Please when registering confirm with the FEAST secretariat which will send feedback to the EC. The nature of the scheme makes registration of a wider range of evaluators welcomed. EU FP7 evaluators assess projects sent to them electronically and are flown to Brussels (with a per diem) by the European Commission.

Call for Applications
In summary, IRSES provides support to strengthen long term staff exchange with Europe (including research managers). The EU will only fund the travel cost of European organisations visiting Australia. In Australia, institutions are expected to cover the cost of their staff. DIISR will provide support toward these costs for a limited number of approved projects (for a total of $60,000 and maybe more depending on demand).

Activities covered by IRSES
IRSES provides support for those Australian research organisations participating in a selected partnership, to establish or reinforce long-term research co-operation through a coordinated joint and balanced programme of exchange for 2 to 4 years, of researchers for periods not exceeding 12 months. Importantly, technical and management staff may also participate in these exchanges. The European Commission will support the travel and living costs of European staff travelling to Australia. In Australia, each organisation is expected to cover the mobility costs (i.e. travel and subsistence costs) of their outgoing researchers travelling to Europe. Under IRSES, staff exchanges are treated as secondments (i.e. exchange participants maintain salary in their institution of origin, and have the right to return).

Application
The proposal must be submitted by a coordinator from a European Member State of FP7 Associated Country (list available in the guide for applicants) by 28 March 2008. To be eligible, the consortium must include the organisation of the coordinator, an organisation from another European country (Member State of FP7 Associated Country), and an Australian organisation (or from any Third country). The size of such exchanges is left to the appreciation of the partners and to the available matching funding from Australia. Consortium from Australia will be competing on a €25m call with all other third countries having a S&T agreement with the EC and European neighbours.

Details about the call are available in the “people” work programme and in the FP7 calls pages FP7-PEOPLE-IRSES-2008: cordis.europa.eu/fp7/calls

Details about the Application itself are available in the guide for applicants.
Funding for Australian staff

Australian staff, will need to seek funding from their own institutions or/ and any domestic sources. In order to assist participating Australian research organisations, the new Australian Government Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DIISR) is considering providing some support to help cover these mobility costs. Funding worth $60,000 has been reserved through the strategic policy element of the International Science Linkages programme to assist such Australian research organisations for this purpose.

This funding is intended to support travel and subsistence costs for a number of exchanges over the period that IRSES is in place, and this initial level of support may be reviewed if demand is particularly high. Such funding would be available on a competitive basis and, to be eligible for consideration, Australian research organisations would need to demonstrate that they are a member of a selected partnership under IRSES. In particular, the Department would be interested in supporting exchanges in certain research priority areas for collaboration with the European Union, including biotechnology and food, energy technologies (including clean energy), bioeconomy (including industrial biotechnology and agriculture) and climate change. The Department will provide further information, through the FEAST website, about this process and selection procedures in March 2008.

For questions and feedback please contact the FEAST secretariat at:
Jean-Francois Desvignes-Hicks FEAST (Forum for European-Australian Science and Technology Cooperation) web: www.feast.org or email info@feast.org phone: +61 2 6125 7884 fax: +61 2 6125 7815 mobile: +61 415 482 650

4. MENZIES FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS IN ENGINEERING

The Menzies Foundation is offering one, two or three year scholarships to Australia post-graduate students in the field of Engineering with tenure in the UK commencing October 2008.

For more information please see – www.menziesfoundation.org.au

Applications are to be submitted directly to the Foundation by Wednesday 30th April 2008. As the scholarship relates to study overseas it does not need to be submitted to the Office of Research and Development.

5. AUSTRALIA MUSEUM EUREKA PRIZES – NOMINATION NOW OPEN

Entries in the 2008 Australian Museum Eureka Prizes are NOW open!

Presented annually by the Australian Museum, the Australian Museum Eureka Prizes reward excellence in the categories of:
· Research & Innovation
· Science Leadership
· School Science
· Science Communication & Journalism

There is something for everyone in this year’s competition with 20 prizes worth over $200,000 available including the brand new:
· Action Against Climate Change (School Science)
· Taxonomic Research (Research & Innovation)
· Research in support of Defence or National Security (Research & Innovation)

In addition, the always-popular Sleek Geeks Science Prize has been expanded to include Primary, Secondary and University students. And the New Scientist science photography prize is open to anyone over 17 years of age.

Entries close Friday 2nd May 2008

For further information on the prizes and how to enter: http://www.australianmuseum.net.au/eureka or email eureka@austmus.gov.au
6. NHMRC RESEARCHER FORUM – 5th MARCH 2008
NHMRC’s CEO, Professor Warwick Anderson will be holding open discussion sessions for the research community around Australia in March and April 2008.

These sessions will cover issues such as success rates in the 2007 funding round, improving peer review, supporting our health and medical researchers, the rising cost of research, supporting biomedical, clinical, public health and health services research, commercialisation of NHMRC supported research and an analysis of NHMRC supported achievements.

The Perth session will be as follows:
**Date:** Wednesday 5 March 2008
**Time:** 3pm to 5pm
**RSVP:** Please contact Elizabeth.Davey@uwa.edu.au (or 6488 3702) if you will be attending

7. SAFEGUARDING AUSTRALIA PUBLIC LECTURE
Should you be in Canberra next week, you may be interested in the following lecture:

**Safeguarding Australia 2007–2008**
**Being prepared – from a diagnostic laboratory perspective**

Dr Martyn Jeggo - Director of Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL), CSIRO
In the past few years it has become increasingly obvious that the risk from infectious disease, both to man and animals is growing. Whether this be from an old established disease such as Foot and Mouth disease, an entirely new disease such as SARS, or a disease changing host such as avian influenza, the threat is clear. From a diagnostic laboratory perspective, it is critical that the disease and the causative agent can be rapidly and conclusively identified and that the laboratory can then assist effectively in whatever is an appropriate response to the disease in question. Using recent examples from the equine influenza outbreak, this presentation explores what is needed and how

**When:** Tuesday 4 March 2008 (Drinks and refreshments 5.30pm. Public lecture 6.00–7.00pm)
**Where:** Shine Dome, Gordon Street, Canberra
**Cost:** Free entry and parking
**Contact:** Email: susie.barratt@science.org.au | Phone: 02 6201 9450 | Fax: 02 6201 9494

8. NEW LOOK RESEARCH UPDATE COMING SOON
ORD will soon be producing a new look Research Update. It will continue to provide information on Funding Opportunities, Prizes and Awards, Conferences and Seminars, but will be reformatted for easier reading as well as containing reminders and tips for research staff.

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