



The Place To Be

Media release

Minister for Information and Communication Technology

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TELSTRA MOVES TO NEXT GENERATION TECHNOLOGY IN VICTORIA

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Minister Marsha Thomson today hailed the opening of the multimillion dollar Telstra Integration Laboratory as further confirmation of Victoria's place as the hub of ICT in Australia.

Partnering with world class technical and engineering experts from Alcatel, Cisco, Juniper and Tellabs, Telstra's Integration Laboratory will utilise cutting-edge test equipment to fast track Telstra's capability as a next generation telecommunications provider.

"The work undertaken at Telstra's new testing facility will have a direct impact on the future of telecommunications in this country especially in regard to the next generation networks," Ms Thomson said.

"It should lead to greater productivity, efficiency and effectiveness in knowledge communications throughout Australia.

"Not only will next generation networks provide new forms of interpersonal communications but they are also critical to the development and international competitiveness of our economy.

"Broadband is forecast to have a huge impact on the state's economy over the next 20 years, with the research showing that it can increase Victoria's economic output by \$15 billion and create 150,000 jobs in Victoria alone by 2015.

"Although telecommunications is a Federal Government responsibility, the Victorian Government is working hard to ensure that Victorians do not have to wait to reap the benefits of broadband.

"We released our strategic broadband plan - the *Broadband Framework* - last year, detailing how the Victorian Government has restructured its broadband demand to create almost \$200 million worth of infrastructure investment across Victoria.

"Telstra is the key supplier of next generation broadband services to Victorian Government departments and agencies, currently finalising the rollout to more than 3,400 locations, including 1,700 schools.

"This is not only improving Government services but its helping communities by connecting kids to 21st century learning and putting families in touch with services and the world."

Telstra has made an excellent decision to base its Integration Laboratory in Melbourne, the hub of ICT in Australia, with Victoria accounting for:

- 45% of national private sector ICT R&D
- 76,000 employees generating almost \$23 billion in revenue annually

- 45% of all ICT professional positions in Australia created in Victoria over the last 12 months
- nine local universities with strong academic programs to deliver future graduates in advanced telecommunications fields.