

Media Release

ITS Australia supports Melbourne's world first 'urban laboratory'

Melbourne, 6 January 2017 – ITS Australia has welcomed the Victorian Government's announcement of a unique hi-tech transport project for Melbourne.

Minister for Roads and Road Safety and Minister for Ports, Luke Donnellan today announced that the world first test bed will utilise thousands of sensors and wireless units fitted to roads to provide unprecedented insight into how to manage transport systems and road networks in a more efficient way.

The National Connected Multimodal Transport (NCMT) test bed will develop pilots and facilitate collaborations between government, industry and academia.

The urban laboratory would cover approximately 7 kilometres of roadways, from north to south, from Alexandra Parade to Victoria Street, and, from east to west, from Hoddle Street to Lygon Street.

ITS Australia confirmed its participation in the project by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with test bed leaders, the University of Melbourne, late last year.

ITS Australia CEO Susan Harris said following the success of the recent Intelligent Transport Systems World Congress in Melbourne, it is important governments and industry continue to work together to find solutions to complex challenges.

"ITS Australia recently hosted more than 11,500 delegates from 73 countries and the message we heard time and time again was that end-users are driving change. Therefore, governments, industry, business and academics need to have more accurate data and research to provide meaningful transport options.

"Australia is a world leader in ITS and we support initiatives and opportunities to make our cities and communities smarter, safer and more efficient.

"The test bed and a recent iMOVE CRC submission to the Federal Government show just how seriously Australia takes real-time, data-driven research to find the best possible outcomes," Ms Harris said.

Professor Iven Mareels, Dean of the Melbourne School of Engineering said a connected community was the key to improved transport options.

"We are pleased ITS Australia has committed to the test bed initiative. The collaborative approach of partners and the ability to capture, analyse and share sophisticated data will open the door to high tech solutions".

Founding Director of the NCMT test bed, and University of Melbourne Professor in Transport for Smart Cities, Majid Sarvi, said the urban laboratory will be a living experiment of connected vehicles and transport networks, people movements and city infrastructure.

"The digital revolution has enabled better connectivity and by understanding real world situations and customer needs, we can take a considerable step towards providing better services and focused

innovations,” Mr Sarvi said.

The first pilot NCMT test bed is scheduled to be launched in April 2017.

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For interviews and further information:

Murray Collins
Communications Manager
+61 3 9646 6466
+61 422 073 394
murray.collins@its-australia.com.au
its-australia.com.au

Twitter: [#ITSAUS](https://twitter.com/ITSAUS)
LinkedIn: [ITS Australia Group](https://www.linkedin.com/company/its-australia)

About ITS Australia

Intelligent Transport Systems Australia (ITS Australia) promotes the development and deployment of advanced technologies to deliver safer, more efficient and environmentally sustainable transport across all public and private modes – air, sea, road and rail. Established in 1992, ITS Australia advocates the application of communication, data processing and electronic technologies for in-vehicle, vehicle-to-vehicle, vehicle-to-infrastructure and mode-to-mode systems to increase transport safety and sustainability, reduce congestion, and improve the performance and competitiveness of Australia’s networks. ITS Australia is an independent not-for-profit incorporated membership organisation representing ITS suppliers, government authorities, academia and transport businesses and users. Affiliated with peak ITS organisations around the world, ITS Australia is a major international contributor to the development of the industry and host of the 2001 and 2016 ITS World Congress

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