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University of Southern Queensland blazes a trail in space research

The University of Southern Queensland has been awarded \$50 million under the Australian Government's University Trailblazer Program to accelerate growth in space manufacturing and lead a new research hub of national priority.

The University of Southern Queensland will lead Australia's effort to boost commercialisation and national capability in the space sector through the 'Innovative Launch, Automation, Novel Materials, Communications and Hypersonics (iLAUNCH) Hub', a collaborative partnership with the Australian National University (ANU) and the University of South Australia (UniSA), and industry partners.

Vice-Chancellor of the University of Southern Queensland Professor Geraldine Mackenzie said the University of Southern Queensland is already a leader in space manufacturing with expertise in hypersonic propulsion systems, advanced materials, and astrophysics and this investment will help drive Australia's prosperity.

"The iLAUNCH Hub will improve Australia's skills in the space sector, providing new jobs and boosting the economy, and also help ensure Australia's space expertise grows well into the future," Professor Mackenzie said.

The Regional Universities Network's (RUN) Executive Director, Alec Webb welcomes the investment in Australia's regions, with this investment recognising the immense value that Australia's regional universities can provide to the Australian economy.

"The iLAUNCH Hub is anticipated to result in greater than \$3.65 billion in economic benefits and this highlights the value that investment in Australia's regions and Australia's regional universities can have for not only regional Australia, but Australia as a whole," said Mr Webb.

For media enquiries:

Mr Alec Webb, Executive Director, 0408 482 736