



14 March 2014

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **New resource for business entrepreneurs to ‘tap’ into**

With more than half of small businesses failing in the first three years of operation, ‘The Tap’ in Scoresby is proving a vital resource for new business entrepreneurs.

The Melbourne East Regional Development Australia (RDA) Committee was a key supporter of ‘The Tap’, a unique advanced technology coworking space that opened in January this year.

Professor Rod Hill, Acting Chair of Melbourne East RDA said, “The space was specifically designed to meet the needs of small teams, start-ups and consultants working in advanced and emerging technologies such as micro, nano, bio-technology, medical devices and ICT.”

Melbourne East RDA Committee contributed \$40,000 towards the facility that was established by STC (Small Technologies Cluster) and is currently offering flexible open workspaces, networking opportunities and support to anyone involved in commercialising advanced technologies.

A couple of months after its launch, the Tap is being accessed by almost 30 members that are able to simply drop in and utilise the facilities including a suite of 3D printers for basic modelling needs, an advanced CAD workstation and a business intelligence portal.

“People using the space can connect and collaborate with others in like businesses. The networking and training that can be accessed for free in STC’s events, like one-on-one consultations with experts in the MedTech Insights Help Desk series is a priceless added benefit of joining and participating in the vibrant STC community,” Professor Hill said.

‘The Tap’ is Australia’s first advanced technology soft landing site, with established reciprocal relationships in The Netherlands, Italy, Sweden and the United States. Through soft landings, advanced technology professionals visiting from overseas are invited to utilise

the space to work, network and collaborate with their Australian counterparts. And when Aussies are overseas, they can readily integrate with other clusters.

To encourage more start up businesses, STC will open the space up for free use in the afternoon on the first Friday of every month. For students or new graduates with an idea for a start up business, STC are offering Student Start Up Grants to the Tap.

Professor Hill said 'The Tap' aligned well with Melbourne East RDA's role to facilitate partnerships between government, business and the community to ensure that within the next decade, Melbourne's East will be significant hub for Asia Pacific's education, innovation and knowledge industries; and Australia's best connected region

For further information on 'The Tap' visit [www.STCAustralia.org/coworking](http://www.STCAustralia.org/coworking)).

---

For more information or photo opportunities please contact Gaby Nime, Executive Officer Melbourne East RDA, on 9938 0159 or [gaby.nime@dbi.vic.gov.au](mailto:gaby.nime@dbi.vic.gov.au).