

Media Release

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Fellowships to fund international research for top scientists

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

Forest & Wood Products Australia (FWPA) has announced funding for up to two international collaborative research projects in 2009 for leading Australian forest and wood product scientists, through its annual Denis Cullity Fellowship program.

Applications for these prestigious fellowships are now open for projects of three to six month's duration at an international research facility. FWPA Managing Director Mr Ric Sinclair said the Cullity Fellowship program supported the ongoing professional development of leading Australian forest and wood product scientists.

"FWPA's support of this program reflects the company's strong commitment to the development of research skills and knowledge which will provide ongoing benefit to our industry," Mr Sinclair said. "It targets our current industry research skills base, to provide Australian scientists with access to cutting edge international research and technology."

Previous Cullity Fellows have collaborated with research centres in France, the United Kingdom, the U.S. and Canada, where significant advanced forestry and wood product research is being undertaken. Technologies studied have covered accelerating the adoption of advantageous plant genetics, advanced adhesive systems for engineered wood products, plant breeding characteristics to prevent wildlife grazing and advanced mathematical modelling of timber drying processes to improve yields and reduce energy consumption.

The Denis Cullity Fellowships were established by FWPA's predecessor organisation the Forest and Wood Products Research and Development Corporation in 2000 in honour of the corporation's inaugural chairman Mr Denis M. Cullity CMG AO. Two fellowships are available to high-calibre Australian scientists or engineers working in areas directly related to the forest and wood products industry. Fellowships will be announced in October 2008, although FWPA reserves the right not to award fellowships if applications do meet the program criteria.

Applicants should be actively engaged in a collaborative research project that increases his or her skills and capability, or provides direct benefit to the science and technology base of the Australian forest and wood product industry. Fellowships do not support postgraduate study.

FWPA intends publish the results of the 2009 Fellowship research projects as part of its ongoing commitment to advance the forest and wood products industry through the communication of research and development outcomes.

Applications should be submitted to FWPA with a C.V. and a detailed outline of the proposed research project including budget. Selection is through an FWPA selection committee. **Applications close on 31 August 2008.** For further information phone FWPA on (03) 9614 7544, fax (03) 9614 6822 or email info@fwa.com.au, or visit the website www.fwpa.com.au.

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About Forest and Wood Products Australia

FWPA aims to improve the competitiveness and sustainability of the Australian forest and wood products industry through innovation by investing in effective and relevant R&D and promotion of the industry's products, services and values. FWPA undertakes industry-level activities where a collective approach delivers more effective and valuable commercial outcomes than individual action. We deliver services that support the industry's capacity as a major exporter and mainstay of regional communities in many parts of Australia.