



**DRIVING
PROSPERITY
FROM SCIENCE
AND INNOVATION**



**ANNUAL
REPORT
/18**

A dark background featuring a complex, glowing green network graph. The graph consists of numerous small, semi-transparent nodes represented by small circles, and a dense web of thin, glowing green lines connecting them. The overall effect is organic and suggests a complex system of connections and data flow.

WE EMPOWER
THE PEOPLE WHO
COMMERCIALISE
RESEARCH



TRANSFORMING SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES INTO NEW BUSINESS



ABOUT KIWINET

Since its inception, KiwiNet and the wider Commercialisation Partner Network have demonstrated the power of bringing together diverse players across the science & innovation ecosystem to work towards a collective vision for New Zealand. Together they are driving us towards a globally-competitive technology sector that delivers significant economic growth and prosperity. The foremost ingredient for success is collaboration.

KiwiNet is the combined power of New Zealand's Universities, Crown Research Institutes and other research organisations who receive public funding. They are dedicated to taking a collaborative approach to research commercialisation. Together these research organisations represent a total combined research expenditure of over \$500 million and represent 75% of the publicly funded researchers in New Zealand.

FUNDING

KiwiNet is funded from the shareholder research organisations, corporate partners and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment.

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**MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT**
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI



KIWINET IS THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND CREATING A HIGH VALUE EXPORT ECONOMY FROM PUBLICLY FUNDED RESEARCH.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

KiwiNet and the Commercialisation Partner Network are now recognised as the champions of the collaborative effort to make all manner of discoveries in our public research organisations investor ready.

What was once a maverick play has now become mainstream, as we demonstrate our collective ability to lift the impact of our Universities, Crown Research Institutes, entities and the growing number of independent research organisations.

Impact is a word that resonates with KiwiNet.

We gathered to shape the KiwiNet Shareholders' Agreement in the Innovation Centre at the University of Canterbury when the devastating earthquake struck in 2011. A seismic shift, literally and figuratively, as we sought to disrupt the sub-optimum siloed approach and substitute a collaborative culture.

Then we reckoned success would be measured by economic impact and how well our new way of working would accelerate ideas to investment ready propositions. We have much to show for our collective efforts, but there is so much more to come.

The Treasury then reported against economic milestones as well.

These days New Zealand is pioneering a living standards framework. Wellbeing is measured by reference to four capitals: natural, social, human and financial/physical.

In my time Chairing KiwiNet since its inception, I have seen discoveries and proposals that advance all four capitals. As always it is science to the forefront as we search for radically better outcomes.

Much should be demanded and expected from the \$1.5 billion of public investment in science, and KiwiNet can claim to have played an active part in unlocking the promise of discoveries.

There have been two keys to our effectiveness.

The power of the collective wisdom and enthusiasm from science leaders who are ambitious for the ideas. These are the people who serve on our Board, who persuaded their institutions to become shareholders, who contribute as members of the Investment Committee, who front the proposals and form part of the KiwiNet team. All combine to generate new momentum for science impact.

The second player has been the state. With the funding of the Commercialisation Partner Network and the PreSeed Accelerator Fund, the state has chosen to be an investor of first resort to ensure that the commercialisation possibilities are powered up where otherwise they would linger in the lab.

The payoff has been palpable. Not content with the well documented early impact, KiwiNet has a strategic ambition to quadruple the quantity and value of new ventures and high-value licence deals emerging from our pipeline by 2023.

It is clear NZ will not meet its economic, environmental and health challenges in particular, without our science playing a prominent part. The disruptive forces are evident and New Zealand needs to make sure we keep driving for new and innovative edges.

Given our beginning, as the earthquake took its toll it was fitting to conclude our last board meeting with a tour of the Ernest Rutherford science tower at the University of Canterbury, celebrating a giant of NZ science and moulding a new generation to come.

I sign off in awe of what I have witnessed; fine New Zealanders who believe in the cause, fertile and clever minds who test their ideas and commit to advance them, dedicated professionals who coach and coax often shy scientists to commit to commercialisation.

I particularly want to pay a tribute to those who have held positions of responsibility on the Board, served on the Investment Committee, and been part of the small but skilled KiwiNet team.

We would never have persuaded Ministers to fund the cause, new shareholders to commit, philanthropists to back, and scientists to put their hand up without those KiwiNet activists.

I am confident that just as our cohort of Emerging Innovators will go on to make a splash, so too the new Chairman Ngaio Merrick, backed by her Board and management team so ably lead by Dr James Hutchinson, will ensure that KiwiNet is the leading light for advancing research impact.



Hon Ruth Richardson / June 2018
Chairman, KiwiNet



KiwiNet's overriding mission is to get publicly-funded discoveries private-sector-ready.

CEO'S REPORT

Albert Einstein once said that “we cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them”.

It's clear that we need to set ourselves and the innovation community some bold ambitions if we are serious about changing the game for New Zealand. We need to leverage our cutting-edge research discoveries to create the new products and services that will diversify our economy and drive our future prosperity. That's why we've put our peg in the sand by committing to increase the quantity and value of new ventures and high-value licence deals emerging from the KiwiNet pipeline within five years. And from talking with thought leaders and colleagues from around the innovation ecosystem, there is a growing collective sense-of-purpose that this is a critical ambition for the future of New Zealand and that the timing is right.

We have seen significant momentum build within the research commercialisation space in recent times. Not only are KiwiNet PreSeed Accelerator Fund investments generating a greater than five-fold return on investment for NZ in terms of business revenue and job creation, there is a real sense of energy across the ecosystem as universities are recognising the critical role that commercialisation and a well-resourced Technology Transfer Office (TTO) plays in delivering impact from research discoveries, that in turn fosters an entrepreneurial culture across campuses and builds reputation. Our Crown Research Institutes are recognising that a strong commercial group provides the critical capability to build entrepreneurship across their research base while providing important opportunities to develop new business models, products and services that will diversify revenue streams, creating future sustainability and enabling their science to have a maximum benefit on New Zealand.

The past 12 months have seen some significant successes and milestones. The Emerging Innovator programme, generously supported by the Norman Barry Foundation, continues to grow and strengthen, with 3 new ventures formed and our first graduation ceremony attended by science minister Hon Dr Megan Woods in November. A new KiwiNet Commercialisation Internship programme has attracted the best and brightest entrepreneurship graduates from around the country, placing them within our TTOs and commercial groups, providing vital capability and supporting new talent to enter this important career space. In collaboration with Return On Science, we hosted the Knowledge Commercialisation Australasia Annual Conference in Wellington in September. This attracted over 100 delegates including a record number from New Zealand and brought together the two commercialisation communities for the first significant cross-ditch collaboration. And a new Advisory Panel initiative

has brought together our Corporate Partners BNZ, MinterEllisonRuddWatts, Baldwins and PwC to bring their deep knowledge and networks to bear on early stage commercialisation projects.

This is the tip of the iceberg and yet there is so much more to do. We know that the first step towards quadrupling our outcomes is to also scale the number of researchers choosing and valuing our commercialisation channel as the best pathway-to-impact for their science. And this must be accompanied by a parallel increase in the quality and quantity of commercialisation capability within our research organisation TTOs and Commercial Groups. These areas form our primary focus for the year ahead. An increase in demand at the front of our pipeline will require more investment. That is why we are working with our colleagues in Government to articulate a future for the Commercialisation Partner Network (CPN) and PreSeed Accelerator Fund when this mandate is refreshed from July 2019. This is an exciting opportunity for Government and all those active in the research commercialisation ecosystem to further energise what is a critical intervention for the future prosperity of New Zealand and what will ultimately provide the products, services, entrepreneurs and businesses that will deliver the solutions to the sizeable challenges we face.

As KiwiNet moves into the next bold and exciting phase of our existence, I thank the energy, wisdom and spirit of our devoted founding Chairman Hon Ruth Richardson. It is through her efforts and leadership that KiwiNet has been able to deliver tangible impact and she leaves us with a bold ambition to move from great to even greater.

Dr James Hutchinson / June 2018
CEO, KiwiNet



We're excited about the growing collective sense of purpose and high level of ambition which is critical to creating the best future for New Zealand.

HIGHLIGHTS

KiwiNet Investment Committee

The Investment Committee met 8 times across New Zealand and reviewed a record 70 commercialisation projects. KiwiNet PreSeed Accelerator Fund investments are generating a greater than five-fold ROI for NZ in terms of business revenue and job creation.

KiwiNet Awards

The fifth KiwiNet Research Commercialisation Awards brought together the innovation community to celebrate successes and inspire others. 293 people attended the evening reception where the 12 finalists and winners were showcased in style. The event reinforces the value of research commercialisation in the innovation community, the value of the Commercialisation Partner Network and the importance of KiwiNet as a champion of this space.

Knowledge Commercialisation Australasia (KCA) Annual Conference

KiwiNet worked with Knowledge Commercialisation Australasia (KCA) to bring their annual conference to Wellington on 7-8 September. This proved a valuable opportunity to bring together technology transfer professionals from across New Zealand and Australia to learn from each other and drive best practice. 56 of the 97 attendees were NZ tech transfer professionals. The conference was opened by the Minister for Research, Science & Innovation, Hon Paul Goldsmith.

KiwiNet's Corporate Partners

KiwiNet's Corporate Partners provide expert support to projects and Emerging Innovators. They play a key role in nurturing new talent and driving projects forward to achieve their full potential. MinterEllisonRuddWatts, Baldwins and PwC have supported 17 projects. PwC has developed and delivered a bespoke business writing course for KiwiNet's Emerging Innovators and other stakeholders.

Operational Funding

The Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) has provided Commercialisation Partner Network (CPN) funding through to June 2019 for KiwiNet, Return On Science and ChristchurchNZ. This investment is a strong signal of confidence in our success and the value that we deliver from publicly funded research. It provides a solid platform for KiwiNet to target strategic initiatives and ramp-up its investment to strengthen the research commercialisation eco-system.



New Shareholder

Cawthon Institute became the fourteenth shareholder of KiwiNet, confirming their support for KiwiNet's ethos and building a science-led economy.



KiwiNet Emerging Innovator Programme

The Emerging Innovator programme has gone from strength to strength with an additional \$75,000 provided by the Norman Barry Foundation and a total of 28 innovators progressing through the programme to date. In November 2017 KiwiNet held its first Emerging Innovator Alumni event where 11 innovators graduated.

KiwiNet Internship Programme

KiwiNet's new Commercialisation Intern Programme sees interns placed within a KiwiNet partner organisations for six months where they work on real technology commercialisation projects, gaining important early experience to pave a way into careers in commercialisation.

Building Commercial Capability

382 researchers and 93 tech transfer professionals took part in KiwiNet commercialisation training initiatives last year as well as events led by our partners. Events included GetFUNDDED, GetINVESTED, Pitching 101, LESANZ licensing training, PwC's business case writing course, Smarten Up Your Ideas workshops, plus the KCA conference and workshop.

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

KiwiNet is delighted to have ongoing sponsorship from valued corporate partners:

- **Strategic Partner, Bank of New Zealand** – substantial support around events and promotion in 2017, helping us raise the profile of research commercialisation
- **Major Partner, Norman Barry Foundation** - confirmed support for 3 more Emerging Innovators with a further \$75,000 of funding in December 2017.
- **Major Partner, Baldwins** – provides in-kind IP advice to our Emerging Innovators and research commercialisation events and projects.
- **Major Partner, MinterEllisonRuddWatts** – provides in-kind legal advice to research commercialisation projects from across the country to ensure early stage projects get off on the right foot.
- **Major Partner, PwC** - provides in-kind consultancy for each project and provides lead support in the development of the KiwiNet Advisory Panel and Deep Tech Leaders programme.
- **Photography Partner, Sciencelens** - provides excellent photographic services for our flagship Awards events.

It's exciting to work alongside these leading businesses, who generously offer their expertise and support to drive prosperity from science & innovation in New Zealand.



*Proudly
supporting
science-led
innovation*

**BNZ Partners
Business Centre**




bnz
Be good with money



Baldwins
intellectual
property



pwc

**MinterEllison
RuddWatts**

**NORMAN BARRY
FOUNDATION**

sciencelens.
PHOTOGRAPHING SCIENCE, INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY

STRATEGY

— OUR PURPOSE

KiwiNet exists to drive prosperity from science and innovation.



STRATEGY

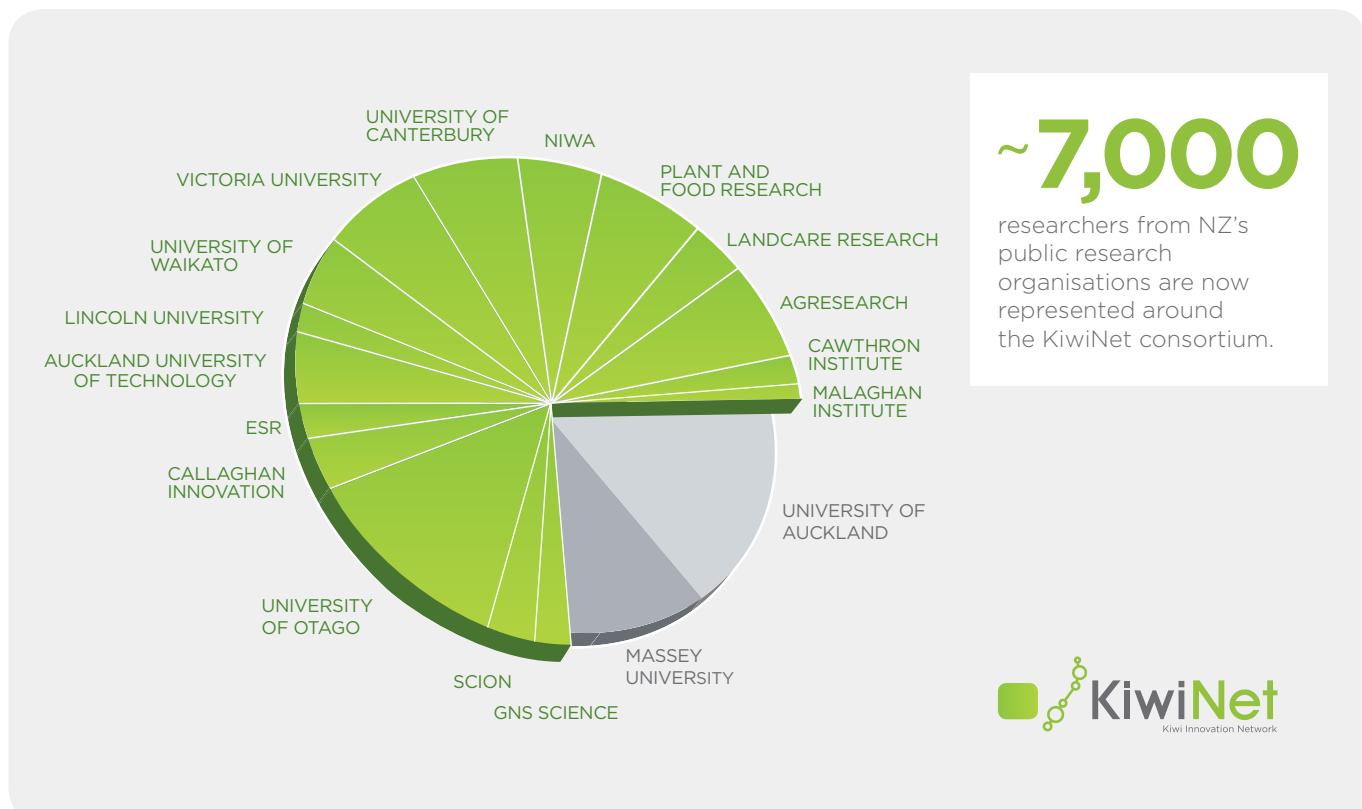
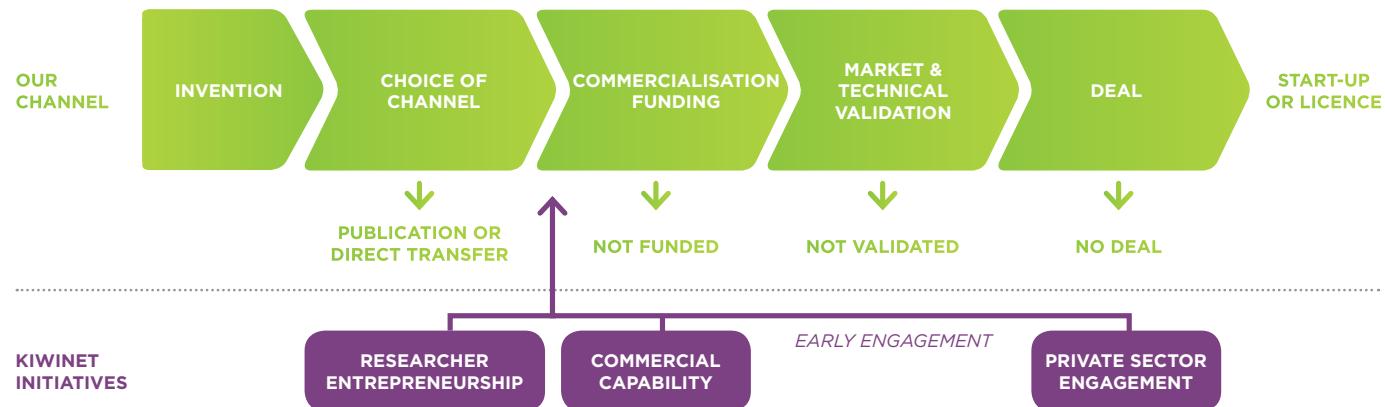
OUR VISION

A globally competitive technology sector, driving a high-value economy for New Zealand.

OUR PASSION

Creating the best environment for public research organisations to transform scientific discoveries into new business.

FROM RESEARCH DISCOVERY TO PRIVATE-SECTOR-READY



KIWINET'S BOLD AMBITION



Our goal is to **QUADRUPLE** the quantity and value of new ventures and high-value licence deals emerging from the KiwiNet pipeline by 2023.

IMPACT – An avalanche of new deep-tech ventures driving a new high-tech revolution for New Zealand, diversifying our economy and driving prosperity.

The first step towards quadrupling our outcomes is to scale the number of researchers choosing and valuing our commercialisation channel as a pathway-to-impact for their science. This must be paralleled by an increase in the quality and quantity of commercialisation capability within the Technology Transfer Offices (TTOs) and Commercial Groups of our research organisations. These areas form our primary focus for the year ahead.

Researcher Entrepreneurship

Inspiring, incentivising and empowering researchers to pursue commercialisation of their discoveries to create new business, alongside more traditional academic or tech-transfer routes.



We aim to QUADRUPLE the number of researchers choosing the KiwiNet commercialisation channel by 2023.

IMPACT – a thriving culture of entrepreneurial researchers, empowered to commercialise their discoveries and generate real-world impact for the benefit of New Zealand.

Commercial Capability

Increasing the quality and quantity of commercialisation activity at research organisations aimed at creating new business, by strengthening commercial capability and expertise.



We will continue to raise the quality and quantity of commercial capability across the system to support the increase in commercial opportunities entering the KiwiNet pipeline and to drive their commercial success.

IMPACT – a community of capable and driven commercialisation professionals that are delivering a robust pipeline of new investable propositions from our publicly funded research.

Private Sector Engagement

Engaging early and often with the private sector to build the best possible expertise around technologies to maximise chances of success.



Regular and early engagement with the private sector will be maintained to ensure both technologies and entrepreneurs receive the best possible support both within and after exiting the KiwiNet channel.

IMPACT – an engaged and supportive business community that is working alongside research organisations to create new, successful, deep-tech ventures and high-value licensing opportunities from Kiwi science.

KIWINET INVESTMENT COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

PRESEED INVESTMENT

In July 2016 KiwiNet began a new three-year PreSeed Accelerator Fund (PreSeed) contract with the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE). KiwiNet's PreSeed pool services 13 research organisations operating a combined investment of \$10.3 million through KiwiNet.

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE PARTNERSHIPS

With 16 research organisations collaborating through the KiwiNet Investment Committee, it now represents approximately 75% of researchers in public research organisations in New Zealand. Over the 12 months to March 2018, 70 projects have been presented to the Investment Committee from 13 different research organisations.



"KiwiNet is an immensely collaborative, productive and positive organisation to be a part of. A significant amount of our commercialisation success is under-pinned by the shared expertise and networks that KiwiNet provides. PreSeed funding is crucial to our ability to maintain momentum in very challenging early stage technology development, without which many opportunities would not reach their full potential for New Zealand."

ANNE BARNETT, CEO, VICLINK LTD

OUR CORE VALUES

People and their connections

Innovation is first and foremost about people and their connections.

Collaboration not duplication

KiwiNet is a facilitator, working with complementary organisations to achieve outcomes through collaboration.

Trusted neutral party

KiwiNet must be recognised as an independent organisation that is trusted to be fair and balanced.

New and innovative approaches

KiwiNet must have a maverick spirit, striving to take new approaches, to create new conversations between new people and to encourage new talent that underpins future innovation.

Speed and efficiency

KiwiNet must be nimble and dynamic, acting as a catalyst for new opportunities and ensuring ideas become self-sustaining quickly.





"Cawthon Research Institute is pleased to lift our engagement with KiwiNet by becoming a shareholder. We see this as another pillar supporting our focus of being a bridge between science and industry by aiding our rapidly growing research and commercialisation activities."

PROFESSOR CHARLES EASON,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE, CAWTHON INSTITUTE



70

Proposals, project previews and Emerging Innovators presented to the Investment Committee*.

*IN THE YEAR TO MARCH 2017.



13

Public organisations pooling PreSeed investment.



17

Different research organisations presented projects to the KiwiNet Investment Committee*.

*IN THE YEAR TO MARCH 2017.

**\$10.3m
PRESEED TO INVEST***

SCION
FORESTS • PRODUCTS • INNOVATION

Lincoln University
CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND

viclink

Manaaki Whenua
Landcare Research

E/S/R
Science for Communities

NIWA
Taihoro Nukurangi

Plant & Food RESEARCH
RANGAHUAU AHURIRĀ KAI

waikatolink
University of Waikato Commercialisation

OTAGO INNOVATION
A UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO COMPANY

UC
UNIVERSITY OF CANTERBURY
Te Wāhanga o Waitaha
Aotearoa New Zealand

GNS SCIENCE
TE PŪ AO

CAWTHON
The power of science™

CallaghanInnovation

agresearch
āta mātai, mātai whetū

AUT VENTURES

MALAGHAN INSTITUTE
OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

*Announced by MBIE in June 2016.



ACTIVITIES

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE PARTNERSHIPS

With 16 research organisations collaborating through the KiwiNet Investment Committee, it now represents approximately 75% of researchers in public research organisations in New Zealand.

PIPELINE COMMITTEE

A joint committee of commercialisation professionals from research organisations, who assess new projects, provide input into KiwiNet initiatives and design initiatives to support commercialisation.

OUTCOMES

Over the 12 months to March 2018, a record 70 projects have been presented to the Investment Committee from 13 different research organisation.

Over the 12 months to March 2018 three Pipeline meetings were held with an average of 11 attendees to each. Projects were discussed among the research organisation representatives, combining expertise and connections to help accelerate commercialisation.

"I'm more confident than ever that KiwiNet is well placed to provide an enduring and substantial return from our public research investment."

"It has been another great year for KiwiNet with more projects than ever before providing firm evidence of the commercialisation momentum that is building within our research organisations. It is particularly pleasing to see the entrepreneurial spirit and drive to do more within the ranks of the new representatives around the Investment Committee table.

Our Emerging Innovator programme has gone strength to strength with increasing numbers of young aspiring researchers excited to see their research make a tangible difference in peoples lives, while capturing value for New Zealand."

**ANDREW TURNBULL - CHAIRMAN,
KIWINET INVESTMENT COMMITTEE**



SUCCESS STORIES

START-UP: Hot Lime Labs to help feed the world

Dr Vlatko Materić, Callaghan Innovation

After an immersive commercialisation experience in KiwiNet's Emerging Innovator programme, Dr Vlatko Materić is now Founder and CEO of Hot Lime Labs. His technology is designed to clean CO₂ from the burning of waste organic material and then allow this clean and concentrated CO₂ to be released into the greenhouse to improve crop yields by around 20%. This will help greenhouse growers to operate at optimal yields, and increase food production while simultaneously cutting environmental harm by using a renewable source of clean CO₂.

Dr Materić says the technology has the potential to increase grower's revenues by \$40-80k per annum per hectare compared to using other sources such as natural gas or liquid CO₂. The global market opportunity for the technology is estimated at over \$800M per annum and is growing rapidly.

Vlatko has successfully raised the start-up's first round of early stage investment to develop its new greenhouse CO₂ capture technology for the global market. The investment round led by Powerhouse, with nearly a dozen co-investors including the Flying Kiwi Angels, will allow the completion of technical development and then a pilot Hot Lime system to be built inside a commercial greenhouse to prove the technology at scale.

According to Dr Materić, the KiwiNet Emerging Innovator Programme was the critical step to move his research project from the academic arena to a value creating business.

"Without the KiwiNet programme I wouldn't have been able to turn my research idea into a commercial venture. The initial funding, guidance and credibility the award gave me



was critical. It's always hardest to find the first person to step up and stand by you. I now have an experienced group of people wrapped around the venture along with the funding required to ensure the best chance of success."

Vlatko's success really demonstrates how the commercialisation ecosystem can work together to give Kiwi technology the best chance of success through small levels of funding in a highly focused and supported way. The initial support for Vlatko through the Emerging Innovator programme, led to a further \$95,000 of funding from the KiwiNet PreSeed Accelerator Fund. This, alongside the ongoing development, mentoring by Will Barker and connections that KiwiNet and its investment committee provided has led to this investment round. Financial support through Callaghan Innovation's Technology-focused Incubator programme provided important co-investment to enable private investors to commit early.

Rudi Bublitz, Co-Founder and "Chief Cat Herder" of Flying Kiwi Angels says, "This investment is an exciting first for Flying Kiwi Angels in that it is much earlier stage than we would typically invest in technology of this kind. The commercialisation network helped de-risk the early development and our diligence team gave a strong positive investment recommendation after weighing up the overall risks and returns of this proposition. The enthusiasm of KiwiNet was also infectious. We are founder-focused in all our investments, and Vlatko's commercial acumen and people skills, along with the strong board he has assembled, gave us confidence that this business has a good chance of success."



MRI-SAFE human-implantable electrodes

WaikatoLink - University of Waikato

Professor Jonathan Scott and his graduate student, from the School of Engineering at University of Waikato, have invented exciting new designs that enable electrodes implanted in people to operate safely in MRI machines.

Professor Scott's MRI-SAFE human-implantable electrode designs received \$75,000 PreSeed funding to aid commercialisation. These have the potential to generate significant royalty streams and make a significant market impact.

This MRI-SAFE Electrodes device was invented in response to needs of Australian start-up, Saluda Medical, whose products automate in-body electrode-driven technology for management of chronic pain. Their inventions address neurostimulation applications such as deep-brain stimulation and spinal-cord stimulation. Saluda Medical raised Series D finance of AUD53 million following successful human trials to support commercialisation of its technology. The Saluda solution offers a significant improvement in quality of outcomes for recipient patients and has the technology to make a significant impact in its market over a short period of time.

Around 70,000 neurostimulators are installed around the world each year at a cost of around USD15-17k each, including implantation. The manufacturer distribution market is estimated to be worth around USD\$375 million annually. The University of Waikato and Saluda Medical aim to leverage this experience to commercialise other medical device projects.



Amarasate® extract – 100% plant-based, world-first weight management extract

calocurb™, the 100% plant-based supplement that helps you manage food cravings is set to take international weight management market by storm

Scientists at Plant & Food Research have developed a 100% plant-based supplement that helps you manage food cravings and is set to take the international weight management market by storm. The Amaraste project was presented to the KiwiNet Investment Committee in March 2017 and received \$122,000 PreSeed investment to find the best market entry through a global commercial partner and ensure the commercialisation strategy maximised value to NZ.

Amarasate® extract was found to be the most effective compound (out of more than 900 plants screened) to trigger the Bitter Brake™ – an evolutionary response whereby bitter compounds trigger a 'stop eating' signal in the brain. When coupled with patented capsule technology, the Amarasate® extract progressed through clinical trials and demonstrated that bitter compounds support a feeling of fullness or satiety. Plant & Food Research was able to create a Generally Recognized As Safe (GRAS) self-determination dossier showing historical use of the extract in the US with support from PreSeed funding through KiwiNet.

Plant & Food Research contracted with the world's leading company for production of capsules to manufacture a trial run of capsules as well as completing US market validation and a provisional patent. Ultimately Plant & Food Research licensed the technology to Lifestream International, a New Zealand private equity owned company who has financed the product launch direct to consumers in the US, bypassing historical retailers, maintaining margin for the commercial partner and developing direct consumer relationships through an online only initial launch. The product was launched in New Zealand in April 2018 and the US in May 2018.



Heparan sulphates combatting Alzheimers disease

Viclink - Victoria University of Wellington

A research project to advance a potential treatment for Alzheimer's disease led by scientists from Victoria University of Wellington was awarded \$392,000 from KiwiNet's PreSeed Accelerator Fund. KiwiNet provided valuable commercialisation support alongside the investment.

In addition to having the potential for major global health impact, this technology could help generate millions of dollars in returns to the New Zealand economy, both through export earnings and driving job creation in New Zealand's biotech sector.

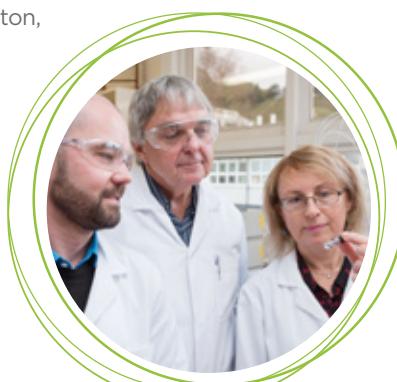
Professor Peter Tyler and Drs Olga Zubkova and Ralf Schwörer from Victoria's Ferrier Research Institute, and long-time collaborator Professor Jerry Turnbull at the University of Liverpool, have also been awarded an Alzheimer's Society UK grant worth over \$450,000 (£260,000 GBP). A research grant of \$15,000 for Dr Zubkova from the New Zealand Federation of Women's Institute, brings the total funding awarded for the research project to \$850,000.

The funding was used to develop drug candidates discovered from research the team has been working on since 2008.

Alzheimer's disease affects over 10 million people in the developed economies and is increasing in prevalence due to aging populations. New drugs that can effectively halt or delay the progression of the disease are urgently needed and this funding is invaluable to progressing this work. The compounds that have been discovered have the potential to slow or stop progression of the disease.

The drug candidates being developed at Victoria University of Wellington, in collaboration with the University of Liverpool, are a novel class of inhibitors that target the biological machinery that causes damaging plaques to form in the brain, leading to the progressive memory loss that is characteristic of Alzheimer's disease.

The scientists have discovered how to make small complex sugars called heparan sulfates chemically in the lab. These can control the degradation of proteins in the brain that cause memory loss. This home-grown technology promises to provide a much-needed breakthrough for the millions of people affected by Alzheimer's disease world-wide, with the potential to reach a US\$6.8 billion global market.



SUCCESS STORIES

Malaghan Institute and Hunan Zhaotai Group partner to form Wellington Zhaotai Therapies



In November 2016, the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research sought funding and advice from the KiwiNet Investment Committee on the formation of a joint venture with a Chinese biotech, Hunan Zhaotai Medical Group, to trial breakthrough CAR-T cell technologies and give New Zealanders early access to this cutting-edge cancer therapy.

The joint venture was formed to trial and commercialise the treatment outside of China. The Institute's expertise and capabilities in trial management and GMP manufacture of cell therapies offered a critical contribution to the commercialisation of this novel therapy, which has the potential for considerable economic benefit to New Zealand.

Along with connections and advice, the Investment Committee allocated \$25,000 PreSeed investment to the project, which was matched by the Malaghan Institute to cover legal fees (including technical diligence on the intellectual property and legal agreements around the incorporation of the joint venture), consultancy regarding trial design and regulatory alignment, and the costs involved in establishing the company. These steps allowed the partnership to work towards a phase I^b clinical trial, with a view to then obtaining FDA/EMA approval.

Through the formation of this company, the Malaghan Institute aims to:

- leverage its capability and reputation internationally to attract foreign direct investment
- establish a substantial biotech company, attracting further investment
- open up an opportunity for commercial cell therapy manufacturing
- generate wealth through capital returns on the intellectual property – the New Zealand-based company has international commercialisation rights to a clinically validated CAR-T cell therapy
- create jobs and opportunities for the trial monitors and other organisations needed for the running of clinical trials
- provide cutting-edge immunotherapies to New Zealand patients.

In October 2017, the Malaghan Institute welcomed a mayoral delegation from Changsha, China, to unveil a commemorative plaque, officially opening Wellington Zhaotai Therapies. The event symbolised the continued development of research collaboration and innovation between New Zealand and China.

ADVOCACY

Collaborating with the research community, research organisations, Government stakeholders, Callaghan Innovation, our CPN partners and stakeholders from the private sector, including investors to create the best supportive environment for commercialisation of publicly-funded research.



ADVOCACY

ACTIVITIES

GOVERNMENT AGENCY ENGAGEMENT

KiwiNet engages with government departments and agencies who are working in similar and complementary areas.

OUTCOMES

KiwiNet has been working closely with the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) to provide a clear picture of research commercialisation activities in New Zealand. Reports provided to MBIE include:

- An annual report on KiwiNet's PreSeed portfolio.
- An annual report of Commercialisation Partner Network outcomes.

MBIE has provided Commercialisation Partner Network (CPN) funding through to June 2019 for KiwiNet, Return On Science and ChristchurchNZ. This investment is a strong signal of confidence in our success and the value that we bring in delivering value from publicly funded research. It provides a solid platform for KiwiNet to target strategic initiatives and ramp-up its investment to strengthen the research commercialisation ecosystem.

COMMERCIALISATION PARTNER NETWORK ENGAGEMENT

KiwiNet is working with our fellow Commercialisation Partner Network (CPN) organisations Return On Science and ChristchurchNZ to accelerate our common goal of achieving better economic outcomes from the commercialisation of publicly funded research in New Zealand.

- KiwiNet and Return On Science worked with Knowledge Commercialisation Australasia to bring the KCA conference to New Zealand in September 2017.
- Return On Science is supporting KiwiNet in celebrating the 2018 KiwiNet Research Commercialisation Awards.

INSPIRING AND INFLUENCING RESEARCH COMMERCIALISATION STAKEHOLDERS

KiwiNet inspires the next generation of entrepreneurial professionals through our own events and by supporting partner led initiatives. Together we create awareness of the value of research commercialisation.



KiwiNet has participated in a range of partner led initiatives. With 897 registrations a record number of people have attended our events. We have shared our wisdom and championed our cause across the ecosystem through several initiatives:

- KiwiNet CEO, James Hutchinson, was panelist at the 'Changing Face of Science - Celebrating Women's Inspiring Contributions to the Life Sciences' - run by NZBio on 29 March, Auckland.
- James spoke about KiwiNet research commercialisation successes at TEDx Ruakura Salon on 25 May 2018
- May Low, KiwiNet's Operations Manager, mentored a team of year 9 and 10 students from Rototuna Junior High School to commercialise their colour changing thermochromic hats. They pitched their idea to the Return On Science Momentum Investment Committee
- KiwiNet has mentored teams at the Innes 48 Start-up competition for the last 3 years
- James Hutchinson spoke at the KCA conference and KiwiNet lead the Technology Transfer Directors session at the event.

PROMOTION & EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT

Building awareness around the activities of KiwiNet, commercialisation professionals and the research organisations to encourage people and make it easier for them to engage.

KiwiNet produced a range of press releases including stories about the KiwiNet Emerging Innovators. Each Emerging Innovator receives media training to enable them to effectively share their stories and raise the profile of their great work.

KIWINET STAFF ACTIVITY

KiwiNet's team works in partnership with research organisations and commercialisation professionals across New Zealand to deliver KiwiNet's strategic objectives.

KiwiNet has a core staff of five who are supplemented with contracted professionals and student interns. Our staff run the investment committee, work with our partners to prepare business plans for PreSeed investment and run events and initiatives to support research commercialisation.

KNOWLEDGE COMMERCIALISATION AUSTRALASIA

KiwiNet worked with Knowledge Commercialisation Australasia (KCA) to bring their annual conference to Wellington on 7-8 September. This proved a valuable opportunity to bring together commercialisation professionals from across New Zealand and Australia to learn from each other and drive best practice. 56 of the 97 attendees were NZ commercialisation professionals. KiwiNet lead the Technology Transfer Directors session at the event.



RESEARCH COMMERCIALISATION AWARDS

In 2017 KiwiNet delivered the fifth New Zealand Research Commercialisation Awards. The KiwiNet Awards celebrate the ability for science to drive our prosperity, putting the spotlight on those who successfully commercialise clever Kiwi ideas. This PREMIER EVENT is highly anticipated on New Zealand's innovation calendar, raising the profile of research commercialisation nationwide.



2017 KIWINET AWARD WINNERS

Winner of the **BNZ Supreme Award** and the **Baldwins Researcher Entrepreneur Award**



Professor Richard Furneaux
Victoria University of Wellington

Carbohydrate chemistry delivers sweet success to NZ

The successful combination of Professor Richard Furneaux's scientific nous and entrepreneurial spirit has generated tens of millions of dollars of economic activity for New Zealand over the past 25 years—a direct result of his own, and his team's, research endeavours.

Starting out as a synthetic chemist, today Richard leads a team of 40 world-class scientists as Institute Director of the Ferrier Research Institute at Victoria University of Wellington. Innovations from this team include the first New Zealand-developed drug to gain registration since the 1980s and a breakthrough synthetic vaccine to treat cancer, allergies and autoimmune diseases.

Richard's passion for New Zealand means that he is always looking for ways in which science can add value to the country—whether it's starting up a new business (Avalia Immunotherapies and GlycoSyn), or collaborating with world-renowned scientists such as Professor Vern Schramm at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York, to deliver a significant portfolio of licensed pharmaceutical candidates which could potentially generate millions for the New Zealand economy. Richard was involved in the synthesis of forodesine hydrochloride, the active ingredient in anti-lymphoma drug Mundesine®, licensed by BioCryst Pharmaceuticals Inc. Mundesine® has just been approved in Japan, making it only the second New Zealand invented drug compound to become a registered drug product.

A mentor to many, Richard's work is well recognised and highly respected by his peers and the business community; he has inspired many to take up the challenge of commercialising scientific discoveries during his own career.



viclink

Winner of the Norman Barry Foundation **Emerging Innovator Award**



Dr Geoff Rodgers
University of Canterbury

Seismic damping solutions for buildings and joint implant diagnostics

Dr Geoff Rodgers has a strong track record of working closely with industry to develop research outcomes with significant benefit to society. His research has applications in fields from seismic protection system for structures through to medical devices.

Geoff completed his PhD in seismic energy dissipation at the University of Canterbury in 2009, and then undertook a postdoctoral fellowship in medical device development at the University of Otago. In 2012 he returned to the University of Canterbury to take up an academic role, and is now an Associate Professor in the Mechanical Engineering Department.

Mechanical seismic dampers he developed to dissipate kinetic energy of seismic waves penetrating a building structure are in use in a low-damage Hospital complex in Christchurch. He is also working on other devices and deployment opportunities locally and internationally.

Geoff is also developing a new method for early detection of wear and tear of hip joint implants that monitors the sound vibrations transmitted from a patient's hip replacement implants. The acoustic emission monitoring system is a non-invasive sensing technique that records low-level vibrations emitted from the implant during patient motion that make it through tissue to the skin's surface.

By listening to the ultrasonic vibrations of the implant, it is possible to relate them to the condition of the implant, to help Orthopaedic surgeons predict impending failures and manage revision surgery. Early detection of wear and tear may provide opportunities for proactive intervention, reducing the severity of surgery and providing improved patient outcomes.

Geoff's approach to technical development, across a range of industry fields, is always pragmatic and realistic, with uptake by industry being a major goal.



2017 KIWINET AWARD WINNERS

Winners of the MinterEllisonRuddWatts Research & Business Partnership Award



University of Auckland, Orion Health and Waitemata District Health Board:
Precision Driven Health

Empowering data-driven healthcare solutions through a public-private research partnership

Precision Driven Health (PDH) is a seven-year NZ\$38m research partnership which improves health outcomes through data science. It brings together Orion Health, Waitemata District Health Board and the University of Auckland with support from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. More commercial partners, healthcare providers and academic institutions will join as the partnership continues.

PDH positions New Zealand at the forefront of the global transformation in healthcare known as precision medicine, enabled when all information about an individual – including his or her genetic and social profile – is available as part of an electronic health record, accessible by clinicians in real time.

PDH's research programme harnesses New Zealand's unique combination of existing electronic healthcare data and world-class research capability to enable the development of data-driven healthcare solutions that can be applied globally. These findings are already a key contributor to the development of the product roadmaps of its commercial partners. In the case of Orion Health, PDH's research programme feeds directly into enabling its Amadeus precision medicine platform to manage and analyse large volumes of data from a variety of sources, and then present those insights back to healthcare professionals and consumers in real time.

pdh PRECISION
DRIVEN HEALTH

**THE UNIVERSITY
OF AUCKLAND**
NEW ZEALAND
Te Whare Wananga o Tamaki Makaurau

ORION
HEALTH

Waitemata
District Health Board
Best Care for Everyone



Winner of the PwC Commercial Deal Award



University of Auckland and UniServices:
Soul Machines

Soul Machines: Humanising the interface between man and machines

In 2011, UniServices and The University of Auckland used the Vice Chancellor's Strategic Hiring Fund to provide Auckland and MIT Alumnus Dr Mark Sagar, a two-time Academy Award winner, with the opportunity to leave his role at Weta Digital and return to the University.

Dr Sagar joined the Laboratory for Animate Technologies based in the Auckland Bioengineering Institute (ABI), University of Auckland. With his engineering and research team he developed two technologies: Facemaker designed to rapidly and reliably create avatar faces based on real human anatomy and physiology, and Baby X, the first avatar created by Dr. Mark Sagar. Baby X technology provides an emotional and social reasoning platform to existing and developing intelligence in the Artificial Intelligence industry.

In 2012 the first long term research contract was secured and UniServices invested in the technology. UniServices also managed research contracts, the patent portfolio and market validation. This enabled the lab to grow and develop both technologies.

In 2016, Hong Kong based Horizons Ventures was introduced to the technology on a tour of the University and was so impressed the team made the decision to invest almost immediately. A \$7.5 million USD Series financing round led by Horizons Ventures with Iconiq Capital, the University's biggest Series A fund raising deal to date, launched Soul Machines, built on the technology behind Baby X.

As a result of the investment, Dr. Sagar became the CEO of Soul Machines and his research team now make up the newly formed Soul Machines brand. Auckland UniServices reassigned ownership of all Intellectual Property and associated research contracts to Soul Machines in return for a shareholding in the new company. Dr Sagar continues to head the Bioengineering Institute's Lab for Animate Technologies.

The investment will allow Soul Machines to deliver on its vision of humanizing technology to create intelligent and emotionally responsive, human-like avatars that augment and enrich the user experience for customers and markets adopting Artificial Intelligence-based platforms.

**THE UNIVERSITY
OF AUCKLAND**
NEW ZEALAND
Te Whare Wananga o Tamaki Makaurau

uniServices IDEAS TO LIFE

RESEARCHER ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Inspiring, incentivising and empowering researchers to pursue commercialisation of their discoveries as the best pathway-to-impact, alongside more traditional academic routes.

ACTIVITIES

OUTCOMES

COMMERCIALISATION TRAINING

Training programmes ranging from practical commercialisation workshops for researchers through to advanced professional development for commercialisation staff.

201 researchers from 27 organisations and 59 tech transfer professionals from 16 organisations took part in KiwiNet commercialisation training initiatives. KiwiNet ran several GetFUNDED and GetINVESTED workshops in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. Smarten Up Your Ideas workshops were also run in Christchurch and Lincoln.

KiwiNet Commercialisation staff presented to University of Waikato Engineering PhD students on Pitching 101 and to MacDiarmid Institute students as part of their Future Leaders Conference in Wellington.

EMERGING INNOVATOR PROGRAMME

The KiwiNet Emerging Innovator programme aims to discover, inspire and nurture Kiwi scientists with entrepreneurial DNA and fast-track them to commercial success.

The Programme has been generously supported by the Norman Barry Foundation with an additional \$75,000 this year, taking their total support to \$450,000 to date. To date, 28 Emerging Innovators have participated in the programme, with some now attracting private investment.

Inaugural KiwiNet Emerging Innovator Graduation event Quality Hotel Parnell, November 2017



GETFUND IMPACT



"I came away with loads of good ideas and strategies, practical advice about what to focus on when pitching ideas."

DR CHRISTINE STARK (right)
RESEARCHER, LINCOLN UNIVERSITY

GETFUND CASE STUDY:

Jasmine Chan-Hymans - Fishhook Science Studios Ltd

Jasmine Chan-Hymans a PhD student in biotechnology at Victoria University of Wellington, is also co-founder of Fishhook Science Studios Ltd - an entrepreneurial endeavour prompted by attending KiwiNet's GetFunded workshop. Jasmine comments, "GetFunded gave me amazing help to improve my pitch. It grew my confidence and my ability to rethink the design and market position of my product. I developed valuable leadership skills, including delegation. The industry feedback on my product was also invaluable." The confidence Jasmine gained at GetFunded spurred her to attend Viclink's Entrepreneurs' Bootcamp - a 14-week program over summer. With Viclink's support Jasmine co-founded and registered the company Fishhook Science Studios Ltd.

The company's vision is that everyone should have the opportunity to learn more about the world around them - especially adults! They specialise in science communication to adults and young adults by combining practical challenges with digital technology and theatrics to create immersive science experiments. As the principal biological science advisor, Jasmine designs and delivers hands-on biology themed workshops. She ensures the science is accurate and informative, collating scientific material and translating it into, high quality, palatable science bites for public consumption. Based on an on-going validation process, Jasmine's business strategy positions the company in the niche of adult science education. She was introduced to market validation at the GetFunded workshop and enthusiastically implemented it during the Viclink program.

Fishhook has been contracted by Te Papa for a series of science events. Their 'DNA cocktail bar' was a smash hit with an adult audience at "Laters to Nature" - a Te Papa event targeting an adult audience. They served more than 120 people. Fishhook Science Studios' Evolution Bootcamp is a life-sized board game that explores the evolution of our most beloved native birds. It was also a winner with families. On the back of this success, the company is developing a corporate package for its DNA cocktail night. They have been engaged by a team of managers at Callaghan Innovation to host an event. In their current development pipeline are ecology themed events in collaboration Zealandia and a workshop on the physics of sailing in the Pacific at Te Papa. They also intend to apply for a four-month long accelerator program in 2018.



EMERGING INNOVATOR PROGRAMME

The KiwiNet Emerging Innovator Programme was launched to strengthen entrepreneurship and nurture commercial aspiration in our scientists. This is essential in order to transform scientific discoveries into new business that will drive prosperity for New Zealand. The Emerging Innovator Programme aims to inspire and empower Kiwi scientists with entrepreneurial DNA, fast-tracking them to commercial success. The programme provides a wide range of initiatives and resources to support recipients on their commercial journey. These include a commercial mentor, coaching in media engagement, and training courses in pitching for investment and commercialisation.

Several Emerging Innovators have progressed along the KiwiNet commercialisation channel securing PreSeed Accelerator Funding with three forming new start-up companies. We have already seen a direct impact on deal flow from the programme as well as a recruitment effect. Emerging Innovators can powerfully influence colleagues, growing an entrepreneurial culture across among researchers.



"On of our goals at the Foundation is to invest in areas that will have a long-term impact for the benefit of New Zealand, so we're very pleased to support the KiwiNet Emerging Innovators."

John Smith, Chairman of the Norman Barry Foundation,
which owns the Quality Hotel Parnell Limited.

\$450,000

from

NORMAN BARRY FOUNDATION

28 EMERGING INNOVATORS AWARDED

11

GRADUATES

3

START UP COMPANIES

In-kind support from

MinterEllison RuddWatts intellectual property Baldwins™



To be eligible, scientists must be working within a public research organisation in New Zealand. Recipients receive \$25,000 of funding, a commercial mentor, media training, publicity, and access to in-kind expert legal support from MinterEllisonRuddWatts and Baldwins.

MEET THE EMERGING INNOVATORS



"As the cycling community becomes more connected to technology the demands for feedback systems are increasing"



MASSEY
UNIVERSITY

DR MATT MILLER

Developing e-bike safety sensors

Dr. Miller, a lecturer at Massey University's School of Sport, Exercise and Nutrition, received the award from the KiwiNet Emerging Innovator Programme which helps early career scientists develop clever new ideas to take to market.

"As the cycling community becomes more connected to technology the demands for feedback systems are increasing," says Dr. Miller, a former elite mountain biker and part of a Massey University research team investigating performance in mountain bike competition.

He also sees an opportunity for the data to be used by brake manufacturers to address safety concerns. "E-bikes have the ability to travel very quickly and often have a less-experienced user. Manufacturers are looking for innovations which improve safety," he says.

While the e-bike market is evolving quickly braking technology hasn't progressed at the same rate as other areas. Currently e-bikes and mountain bikes largely use the same brakes, but the industry is moving towards integration of electronics and e-bike specific brakes. Matthew's sensor technology could be incorporated into new braking technology to both improve control and safety and collect valuable feedback data to improve efficiency.

Through the KiwiNet Emerging Innovator programme Dr. Miller has already met with over a dozen big players within the cycling industry

to determine the best applications for his IP for the fast growing e-bike market, which is forecast by some analysts to hit \$24.3 billion in revenue by 2025.

The programme has allowed Matthew to be immersed in the world of commercialisation to allow him to develop a solid platform of skills, experience and contacts that will enable him to progress his proof-of-concept e-bike brake sensor towards an investor-ready stage.

Dr. Miller started the e-bike meter project based on earlier research that demonstrated the link between changing braking patterns and improved performance. Together with Dr. Philip W Fink, Dr. Miller has already developed a brake power meter (BPM) for mountain bikes, which automatically measures braking power and time spent braking while you ride - a world first.

"Riders want to gather performance and skills data, rather than just fitness data previously available, so the BPM is the next logical step - as it measures the braking power of a bicycle and transmits the data to a mobile device with performance analysis software", he says.

Dr. Miller is also receiving support from Massey Ventures, a fully owned subsidiary of Massey University, to protect the IP and to license the technology to target e-bike manufacturers.

DR IVAN KURTOVIC

Specialised lipids for nutraceuticals and functional food manufacture



Plant & Food Research scientist Dr Ivan Kurtovic says his biggest takeaway from the Emerging Innovator Programme is being able to appreciate the transition from pure research to scale up, and then to commercialisation. "It's been invaluable learning how to simplify and present my story, how to engage with IP experts, to understand how research can be commercialised and what the steps are. I now have the confidence to attempt further scale ups and further applications of my research."

Dr Kurtovic was accepted into the Emerging Innovator Programme to explore the commercialisation of a green chemistry project to create specialised lipids for use in nutraceutical and functional food manufacture.

Dr Kurtovic, an enzymologist in the Marine Industrial Biotechnology Team at Plant & Food Research, is working on enzyme technology that transforms lipids to have higher levels of desirable fatty acids for nutritive and therapeutic applications.

The demand for sustainable green chemistry in industrial processes is increasing. Lipid transformation is often carried out using solvents or other techniques that are not environmentally-friendly. Dr Kurtovic is exploring methods for enzymatic interesterification that can be used as an alternative, to achieve lipid transformations and produce highly bioavailable lipids enriched with Omega-3 fatty acids.

The Emerging Innovator funding has also allowed Dr Kurtovic to purchase several custom-built immobilised enzyme (lipase) reactors for transfer of the technology from the laboratory to prototype pilot scale. This has helped achieve the proof of principle needed to validate the new technology and attract further investment.

"Thanks to KiwiNet, this is the first time I've been able to scale up my enzyme research and to test improvements in a more industry-relevant way," says Dr Kurtovic. "I'm continuing to test different enzyme systems and optimise the scale up process to improve conversion and enrichment of the final product."

One of New Zealand's fastest-growing food export categories is nutraceuticals. Consumers are increasingly interested in sustainable, natural and environmentally friendly products. Ivan and his team at Plant & Food Research are developing valuable enzymatic methods for creating lipids for the therapeutic market. This research represents a great commercial opportunity for industry, in New Zealand and farther afield, to develop IP that can be used in their processes.

Sue Muggleton, Intellectual Property Manager and Business Manager at Plant & Food Research, says: "It's been fantastic working with Ivan, KiwiNet and partners to progress the commercial application of this research. In conjunction with an industry partner, we're keen to further develop the commercial potential of this technology and make the most of opportunities in the nutraceuticals market."



"It's been invaluable learning how to simplify and present my story, how to engage with IP experts, to understand how research can be commercialised and what the steps are. I now have the confidence to attempt further scale ups and further applications of my research."

Dr Ivan Kurtovic



COMMERCIAL CAPABILITY

Increasing the quality and quantity of commercialisation activity at New Zealand's public research organisations.

ACTIVITIES

OUTCOMES

KNOWLEDGE COMMERCIALISATION AUSTRALASIA

KiwiNet worked with Knowledge Commercialisation Australasia (KCA) to bring their annual conference to Wellington on 7-8 September.

This proved a valuable opportunity to bring together technology transfer professionals from across New Zealand and Australia to learn from each other and drive best practice. 56 of the 97 attendees were NZ tech transfer professionals.

KIWINET INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

KiwiNet's new Commercialisation Intern Programme sees interns placed within a KiwiNet partner organisation for six months where they work on real technology commercialisation projects, gaining important early experience to pave a way into a career in commercialisation. Interns work alongside the local commercialisation team to develop business plans and cases to support the development of new technologies, undertake impact analysis of emerging technologies and science. KiwiNet provides a programme of professional development support, including training courses and a short secondment with the KiwiNet team in Hamilton.

Seven interns have been placed to date, across six organisations. The internship programme is proving a tangible and effective route towards building commercial capacity within resource-stretched Technology Transfer Offices and Commercial Groups.

CORPORATE PARTNERS

KiwiNet's corporate partners are very keen to get behind KiwiNet Partner projects, commercialisation staff and Emerging Innovators by providing in-kind advice and expertise, mentoring, plus additional funding.

KiwiNet has sponsorship partnerships with BNZ, Norman Barry Foundation, MinterEllisonRuddWatts (MERW), PwC, Baldwins, and Sciencelens to provide funding and in-kind support to KiwiNet activities and projects.

MinterEllisonRuddWatts and Baldwins have provided significant in-kind expertise having supported 14 projects and provided training for a number of others.

PwC provides consultancy for KiwiNet partner projects and lead support for the newly formed KiwiNet Advisory Panel.

TRAINING PARTNERSHIPS

KiwiNet has worked with PwC to deliver training programmes and workshops for partner organisations.

Partner training has included business writing courses and valuation workshops for AUT.

COMMERCIAL MENTORS

KiwiNet commercial mentors support researchers and organisations with everything from identifying new commercial opportunities to mentoring high potential projects. Commercial mentors are driving significant pipeline growth while helping research organisations overcome limited tech transfer resources.

KiwiNet has created over 40 connections between commercial mentors and Emerging Innovators and projects over the last 12 months.

PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT

Engaging early and often with the private sector to build the best possible expertise around technologies to maximise chances of success.

ACTIVITIES

OUTCOMES

INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Connecting with similar organisations overseas to identify opportunities for collaboration and leverage their connections into foreign markets.

Three projects have progressed through the China New Zealand Industrial Centre in Suzhou Industrial Park: Chronoptics and Ligar Polymers, both spinouts from the University of Waikato and ZealaFoam™, from BPN.

INCUBATOR ENGAGEMENT

KiwiNet works closely with each of the technology incubators as a key provider and facilitator of potential deal flow.

The incubators have reviewed a number of PreSeed funded projects and two are about to commence pre-incubation due diligence.

EXPERT ADVICE & ENTREPRENEUR CONNECTIONS

Delivering the best possible advice and guidance for researchers and commercialisation staff.

Expert advice provided has included customer validation based design to ensure a product is market ready. This has been critical in getting an AUT's spinout company (Avice Ltd) investment ready with their revolutionary wearable technology.

KiwiNet continues to facilitate Advisory Panels for projects to present to and receive generous services from our corporate partners.

INVESTOR CONNECTIONS

KiwiNet engages with the investor community to help transform scientific discoveries into investor ready opportunities.

KiwiNet actively engages with the Angel and High Net Worth community. This includes sponsorship of the Angel Summit.

KiwiNet engages with NZVIF, Callaghan Innovation and NZTE through the Investor Heartbeat team. This initiative is a cross agency forum developed to accelerate capital raising activities.



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