Welcome to the winter edition newsletter of the SMART Infrastructure Facility.

The global, regional and national context of the SMART research program has never been more pointed with the rapid urbanisation of Asia and the emergence of megacities where by 2050 over 75% of the global population will live in these hyper-dense urban environments, yet only occupy about 4 per cent of the earth’s surface. This was the key message I delivered recently to an APEC forum in Kuala Lumpur.

The implications of this urban transition in Asia are profound for Australia. The competition for resources including human and financial capital will be acute, and the future role of Sydney and Melbourne as significant global players and attractive destinations will be strongly contested in coming decades. There is no doubt that the ability of our major cities and regional centres to respond credibly to the challenges of growth, productivity, well being and resilience will rely on a plan for the future that responds to those outcomes that matter to the community.

That is why the SMART research agenda is making the case for a positive future where trade-offs with growth and development are understood and debated in a transparent way. It is only from this starting point that community buy-in and belief that city-wide planning and change can be credibly managed for the better.

Garry Bowditch
CEO, SMART Infrastructure Facility.

CONVERSATION WITH DR RICHARD SHARP

SMART Advisory Council Member, Dr Richard Sharp, from Arup Australia is joining us to discuss the key issues he sees facing infrastructure planning and how SMART is perfectly placed to effectively address these problems.

To watch the video click here.

NEW EXPERTS JOINING SMART

The expert academic team at SMART is expanding again, and we have recently welcomed:

• Professor Graham Harris Professor of Infrastructure & Environmental Systems
SMART EXECUTIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
SMART's Executive Development Program continues to attract high calibre participants and is going from strength to strength. Our next event 'Regulation, taxation and property rights: economic foundations with applications to environmental economics and infrastructure' will cover material vital to the economics of public policy, with a strong focus on understanding externalities and their consequences.

The event will be hosted at Sydney Business School on Monday 6th August 2012. Delivered by SMART’s Professor of Infrastructure Economics, Henry Ergas and Dr Mark Harrison, it is sure to be highly sought after so save the date and check the SMART Masterclass website for program and registration updates.

RAIL LOGISTICS RESEARCH DIRECTIONS
In March, we had more than 50 industry leaders and academics converging on SMART to participate in our Rail Logistics Workshop, aimed at aligning our research efforts to the needs of industry.

SMART’s Director of Rail Logistics, Andrew McCusker is confident the workshop successfully captured and identified the industry's priorities for research. This will guide the activities and projects that SMART undertakes over the next two to three years. For further information, download a copy of the SMART Rail Logistics Strategic Direction 2012.

To read more click here.

SMART MOVE SECURES FUNDING
Good data management practices and governance is central to SMART’s vision in instilling a collaborative and information-rich culture in infrastructure research. To this end, we are assembling a SMART Infrastructure Dashboard (SID) that will help build an evidence base about infrastructure assets and networks and their unique differences when examined from a spatial, technical, economic and social perspective. We will keep you informed on this important project and its many applications to support better infrastructure planning and management.

The SMART Infrastructure Dashboard (SID) project has secured $215,000 in development funding from the Australian National Data Service (ANDS).

SMART’s Professor of Simulation and Modelling, Pascal Perez said, “this funding is an acknowledgement of the importance of our research work contributing to the provision of a holistic approach to the planning and management of infrastructure.”

To read more click here.

SMART SEMINAR SERIES
The SMART Seminar Series presentations are thought provoking sessions that encourage active participation and seek to challenge current academic and industry conventions.

Since our last newsletter, we have hosted a number of SMART Seminar Series events,
FACULTY LABORATORIES

Since conception, SMART has sought to draw on UoW's proven inter-disciplinary research track record and academic strength across a variety of speciality fields to holistically assess and advance infrastructure solutions.

Housing a number of Faculty laboratories within our state-of-the-art Facility, this edition sees the start of a series of informative pieces highlighting the Faculty's world-class, innovative research and teaching taking place within the SMART building.

- Simulation & Modelling
- Rail & Soil
- Water & Fluids
- Power Quality
- Foundation Engineering & Physics

GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP EXCELLENCE AWARD

SMART sponsored the award for Government Partnership Excellence for the third year running at the Annual Infrastructure Oration and National Infrastructure Awards, hosted by Infrastructure Partnerships Australia.

This year's winner was the Mundaring Water Treatment Plant, a $306 million water treatment PPP between Helena Water and the Water Corporation of Western Australia.

The project is the first PPP awarded in WA in more than five years and contributes to meeting the state's objective of diversifying the financing of infrastructure development.

Details of the award ceremony and finalists may be found here.