



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **AROSE launches Australia into new frontier of innovation**

- Industry, academia and government have joined forces to form the Australian Remote Operations for Space and Earth (“AROSE”) consortium.
- AROSE brings together Australia’s world leading remote operations capability to improve the safety and efficiency of sectors core to the Australian economy, as well as unlock opportunities for local companies to participate in the global space economy.
- AROSE will spark an additional \$196 million gross state product for Western Australia on an annual basis and support an increase of 1,540 jobs within the next 5 years, according to PwC economic modelling.

The AROSE consortium was officially launched in Perth today by the Minister for Innovation and ICT; Science, the Hon Dave Kelly MLA and international delegates from the space sector.

AROSE draws upon consultation from 42 public and private organisations from multiple industries across Australia, and is led by founding partners that include the State Government of Western Australia, Woodside, Fugro, Nova Systems, Curtin University and The University of Western Australia.

AROSE Director and former NASA Astronaut Colonel Pamela Melroy believes “There is a unique opportunity to leverage Australia’s existing expertise in remote operations to accelerate the participation of Australian firms in global space supply chains.”

“There is real potential to have a direct and significant impact on international space missions such as Artemis and the Lunar Gateway,” Colonel Melroy said.

Adopting digital automation technologies in the mining, oil and gas industries has the potential to add \$74 billion in value to the national economy by 2030 and create more than 80,000 new jobs, according to the [2019 AlphaBeta report](#).

The WA government has contributed \$1.5 million to secure Perth as the base for AROSE, Minister for Innovation, ICT and Science, the Hon Dave Kelly MLA said “The McGowan Government is seizing the opportunity to take part in the new generation space race to deliver on our commitment to diversify the economy and create WA jobs.”

Executive Vice President Sustainability and Chief Technology Officer Shaun Gregory said Woodside was already a leader in remote operations in WA, having operated offshore facilities remotely for a number of years and collaborated with other industry partners and government agencies to further develop its capabilities.

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“Woodside is contributing \$1.5 million and additional in-kind support to AROSE to establish WA as a global provider of remote operations capability on earth and in space,” Mr Gregory said.

We see potential for the further deployment of remote operations capabilities, developed by AROSE, to ensure the future competitiveness of our sector and other industries in WA and the nation.”

As a cross-sector collaboration, AROSE exists to grow Australian industries and capitalise on the opportunity presented by the space sector.

“AROSE presents a unique opportunity for multiple industry domains to engage, to access, and enable cutting-edge technologies to help solve the problems of today, as well as the complex challenges awaiting us over the horizon in the field of remote operations” Said Greg Hume, Nova Group – Group CEO.

Nova Group believes that a collaborative approach will truly provide accelerated benefit and growth of both the terrestrial and space sectors.

Fugro Remote Systems Technology General Manager Samuel Forbes highlighted the potential for AROSE to play a significant role in the transformation of not only the energy, resources, agriculture, construction and defence sectors but the growing space sector as well.

“By bringing together leaders from Australian industry, research and space agencies we are creating a hub of knowledge and expertise that is world-class and will facilitate the development and transfer of advanced technology that is safer and more efficient,” said Mr Forbes.

WA Scientist of the Year Distinguished Professor Phil Bland from Curtin University’s Space Science and Technology Centre celebrated AROSE as an incredible opportunity to join industry and research.

“AROSE brings together the best of Australian industry, with the most advanced technology, and leading WA scientists. It is our goal to deliver solutions that will benefit the Australia-NASA Moon-to-Mars program. We will be contributing our Binar small satellite technology, to help get WA and AROSE into space.” Professor Bland said.

The University of Western Australia Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dawn Freshwater, said the University was delighted to join a multi-disciplinary team, in which organisations and experts would be working together to solve some of the world’s most complex challenges.

“The University of Western Australia has a well-deserved reputation for world-class research. We are looking forward to contributing our expertise and facilities to making

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cutting-edge advances in areas such as robotics, automation, communications, energy and space exploration,” Professor Freshwater said.

Megan Clarke AC, Head of the Australian Space Agency congratulated AROSE on its formal opening, commending everyone who has been associated with this effort of bringing together industry with researchers with such an exciting vision.

“Robotics and Automation on Earth and in Space is one of the Australia Civil Space Priorities. I really look forward to hearing some of the exciting developments that will come from AROSE,” said Megan Clark.

For further information, visit [arose.org.au](http://arose.org.au) and to view the AROSE Media Statement released today from the Minister for Innovation and ICT; Science, the Hon Dave Kelly MLA please visit <https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2020/02/McGowan-Government-rockets-State-into-new-generation-space-race-to-create-1500-WA-jobs.aspx>

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