# Technology Development Report

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In the first year of this role we have seen a distinctly enhanced connection with the Technology Transfer Office (formally Office of Commercialisation) through Neil Radford's recent appointment. Neil has been active to look towards mapping capabilities and supporting developments. Furthermore, in a strategic three-way partnership between the College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences, RSPE and the TTO a new type of business development officer has been created to able researchers to engage more directly with commercial partners. Jean-Christophe Lonchampt has joined the team for a 3 year trial, bringing with him over a decade of experience with Intel venture capital and developing business opportunities for spin-off companies. I thank the School Development Board for their part in focusing the relevant attributes for this role, and I feel we have been very fortunate to attract Jean-Christophe, who joined us in October, 2013. The objective is to demonstrate that this approach should be extended across the University.

A narrative has been developed out of School examples to illustrate the flow of innovation that preserves the fundamental, while distilling selected opportunities into an applied direction. It is clear that prominent case studies can increase the School engagement in these avenues and this narrative will incorporate fresh examples.

The largest challenge remains a sociological one, that is to increase the grass-roots visibility for applied research at the ANU, and to demonstrate how this approach can interleave with fundamental pursuits. I believe RSPE is still one of the most engaged of the science schools, but we can go far further and must if we are to supplement falling government support for research. Already the visibility within the School is starting to improve and a number of groups have engaged directly with the TTO and School staff. The announcement of the Sirtex Chair, the first industry sponsored position at the ANU provided an example of industry funding supporting the fundamental. Exciting aerospace infrastructure being developed at Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics together with our School also heralds new horizons that have stimulated a taste for the applied with Professor Christine Charles' "pocket rocket".

Lithicon, currently the only School spin-off is, set for a big year in 2014, as are the commercial avenues for the sale of tomography facilities. Towards the end of 2013 the prospects for several new spin-outs are emerging and possibly indicate a shift towards commercial engagement. There is no doubt that Neil and Jean-Christophe have been an important part of this new engagement strategy. These spin-offs promise novel graphene production methods, agile lab -based measurement equipment and cost-effective remote digital communications. The strength of this School has always been the union of technical excellence and academic innovation. I have a firm belief that we are in the best position to diversify this capability to benefit the research foundations of the School.