Thales and CSIRO team up for STEM education

Thales has partnered with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) to promote vital Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education in Australian schools.

Under a three-year agreement, the company will support two national CSIRO programs that help build the technology workforce of tomorrow – the Creativity in Engineering, Science and Technology (CREST) program and Scientists and Mathematicians in Schools (SMiS).

Thales Australia CEO Chris Jenkins said: “Australia’s future prosperity is dependent on developing the right skills at a young age. Our country requires a sound base of technical and scientific knowledge, and programs such as these help to build it. As an
engineer myself, I know how important it is for kids to get interested in STEM subjects during their school years, and how that translates into exciting and rewarding careers.”

CSIRO Chief Executive Dr Larry Marshall said collaboration between research and industry lights the path towards STEM careers for budding young innovators.

“Seeing the importance of science in a successful company like Thales makes STEM real for students and inspires them to tackle tomorrow’s challenges with confidence and enthusiasm, which is vital for Australia to become an innovation leader.”

Thales’s participation in the CREST awards program involves company personnel working with students who are designing and carrying out their own open-ended science investigation or technology projects.

CREST encourages students to learn multiple skills including scientific thinking, planning, problem solving and effective communication.

The SMiS program will see technical specialists from Thales spend time in schools, working with teachers to bring real-world experience to students the classroom and promote the importance of STEM.

Since its establishment in 2007, SMiS has grown into a successful program with over 1,790 currently active partnerships across Australian schools.

Thales supports STEM education in different countries, and is keen to encourage new models of education to ensure that as many young people as possible are inspired by scientific subjects and taught how to look for innovative solutions and think creatively.

About Thales

Thales is a global technology leader for the Aerospace, Transport, Defence and Security markets. With 64,000 employees in 56 countries, Thales reported sales of €14.9 billion in 2016. With over 25,000 engineers and researchers, Thales has a unique capability to design and deploy equipment, systems and services to meet the most complex security requirements. Its exceptional international footprint allows it to work closely with its customers all over the world.

Thales in Australia is a trusted partner of the Australian Defence Force and is also present in commercial sectors ranging from air traffic management and ground transport systems to security systems and services. Employing around 3,200 people, Thales in Australia recorded revenues of more than AUD 1 billion in 2016.