

**Spatial Industries Business
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Media Release

Spatial industry is ready to roll

Canberra, 7 August 2009

The peak private sector body for the spatial industry, the Spatial Industries Business Association (SIBA), is thrilled at the announcement today by the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Senator Kim Carr of the success of the Cooperative Research Centre for Spatial Information's (CRCSI) bid for continuation of funding of its national research program.

'At a time when the country is embarking on an ambitious program of infrastructure development and climate change mitigation it is crucial that governments invest in fundamental national infrastructure such as this,' said SIBA Chief Executive Officer, David Hocking.

Innovation within the spatial industry is enabling many areas of the economy, and has the potential to significantly improve Australia's competitiveness in the global market place as we emerge from the global financial crisis.

The spatial industry is a key player in the new economy, and is driving employment opportunities across many industry sectors. Spatial information and technologies, according to a 2007 economic study of the sector by ACIL Tasman, contributes more than \$12 billion to Australia's GDP.

Many industries and government agencies are already implementing spatial systems. Many new products and services are reliant on spatial information and technologies.

'This is an industry that will contribute in a very practical way to reducing carbon emissions without the usual cost imposts and time constraints,' said Mr Hocking.

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'The spatial information industry and its user and adopter communities are united in their support for and belief in the quality of the research program put forward by the CRC SI,' Mr Hocking said.

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