Background:
ARC Centres of Excellence are prestigious hubs of expertise through which high-quality researchers maintain and develop Australia's international standing in research areas of national priority. ARC Centres are funded for up to seven (7) years. The University of Adelaide will support involvement in high-quality, competitive applications.

The next ARC Centre of Excellence (CoE) round will commence in the first quarter of 2015, with funding to commence in 2017. It is anticipated that the ARC will run a 2-stage process with the following approximate timing, namely:

1) ARC EoI submission: Round is likely to open in April 2015.
2) Invitation for ARC Full Proposals: This is likely to be in the second half of 2015.

University of Adelaide is undertaking an internal EoI process prior to the opening of the ARC Centre of Excellence 2017 round. This internal process will provide applicants with an opportunity to confirm details of their proposal and for School/Faculty commitments to the proposed Centre to be considered. Applicants will receive feedback from School/Faculty/DVCR and a recommendation whether to proceed to the ARC EoI phase. University support cannot be guaranteed for CoE proposals that have not been submitted at the internal EoI phase, or for which the School/Faculty/DVCR has recommended not to proceed to ARC EoI phase.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - PROCESS

• The Expression of Interest (EoI) should be submitted by the proposed Centre Director, (or lead researcher where the proposed Centre Director is still to be confirmed), on behalf of the bid team. When completing the internal EoI please read the most recent ARC Centre of Excellence Funding Rules (2014) to ensure the objectives of the Centre of Excellence scheme are met.

• Initial consideration of any bid involving the University is to be undertaken by the relevant Head(s) of School and Faculty Executive Dean(s). This is done on the basis of the EOI which must be completed and submitted to Research Branch using SurveyMonkey by Friday, 12 December 2014. https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/EOI_CE17

• The SurveyMonkey form cannot be saved, and must be submitted in a single session. To assist applicants in the completion of the SurveyMonkey form, a WORD form is provided to assist you to collect/collate your ARC Centre of Excellence EOI information prior to entering it into SurveyMonkey. Please contact arcgrants@adelaide.edu.au for queries/assistance with your SurveyMonkey submission.

• Research Branch will distribute all EOIs received via SurveyMonkey to Schools/Faculties for consideration by Monday, 15 December 2014.

• Faculties and Schools:
  o Give due consideration to the strength of the strategic case for the proposed Centre.
  o Manage in-principle support, budget allocations and ranking of bids
  o Faculties advise Research Branch of final School/Faculty rankings and recommended allocations by Friday, 6 February 2015.

• DVCR assesses the strategic case for CoE EOIs bids across the University in consultation with the relevant Faculties and provides preliminary advice on stop/go to applicants, together with confirmation of in-principle cash support. This support is subject to satisfactory confirmation of the required contributions of partner organisations, and appropriate returns to the University. DVCR will examine the evidence and determine whether to endorse further development of the University’s participation in the bid. The DVCR may also request further information or documentation as necessary, **DVCR may not support all bids**, and retains final, absolute discretion whether and how much financial support will be available for each application;
Key points for University of Adelaide participation in Centre bids

- **In-kind contributions**
  The proposed staff in-kind contributions must be considered in terms of the expected returns, the effect on staff members’ other commitments or eligibility for other grant schemes (e.g. ARC Discovery Projects), what alternative sources there are to fund the proposed or similar activities, and what capacity exists in case the staff member/s concerned are unable to fulfil their obligations. Any proposed non-staff in-kind contributions must also be detailed.

- **Cash Co-contributions**
  For Category 1 competitive grants DVCR will consider providing up to 50% of the total University cash contribution, with the other 50% to be matched from School/Faculty funds (usually 25% and 25%). The total level of University investment in any competitive research initiative will be capped at a maximum value that will be determined by the DVC(R), in-line with budget constraints and acceptable leverage. The acceptable leverage ratio is in the order of a 5:1 return to the University of ARC dollars for every UofA dollar invested in the Centre.

- **State Government support**
  Proponents are encouraged to involve relevant State Government agencies in their bids and should liaise directly with them, but should keep the SA Government’s Department of State Development (DSD) informed of any such involvement via the Research Branch.

### Key Dates for University of Adelaide participation in Centre of Excellence bids (CE17) – Expressions of Interest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COE EOI's due at Research Branch</td>
<td>12 December 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COE EOI's sent to Schools/Faculties</td>
<td>15 December 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COE EOI's – School/Faculty rankings and support due at Research Branch</td>
<td>6 February 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DVCR considers all EOI's and applicants are advised</td>
<td>20 February 2015</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ARC Centres of Excellence Expression of Interest Form

The Expression of interest form seeks details of your ARC Centre of Excellence proposal, including:

- Staff who would play key research leadership roles in the Centre;
- Potential partners (both nationally and internationally);
- Alignment of the Centre will the research focus and strategic direction of the University;
- Level of support and commitment requested of the University and other Partners and the benefits of the Centre to the University;
- A short description of the next steps in developing the submission.

Any queries on this document or completing the EOI form can be directed to arcgrants@adelaide.edu.au or + 61 8 8313 5137

Further information on ARC Centres of Excellence can be found at: http://www.arc.gov.au/ncgp/ce/ce_default.htm
### 1. ARC CENTRE DETAILS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Centre Title</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>yrs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proposed Host Organisation &amp; Location</td>
<td>New Centre or Renewal?</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Likely Partner Organisations</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UA Lead Researcher</th>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Phone:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>School:</td>
<td>e-mail:</td>
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</table>

### 2. BACKGROUND

Briefly outline the following:

(a) What are the objectives of the proposed ARC Centre?

(b) Describe the innovative and potentially transformational nature of the proposed research program.

(c) The extent to which the proposed research builds effective collaboration and critical mass across groups of researchers.

(d) The likelihood that the proposed Centre will attain an international standing in the proposed fields of research.

### 3. STRATEGIC BENEFITS TO THE UNIVERSITY

(a) What are the major strategic benefits that will result from participation in this Centre? For example, strategic alliances, research capacity building (through employment of postdoctoral fellows), additional Higher Degree Research students, benefits from technology development and transfer etc.
(b) Describe briefly how participation in the Centre relates to the University & Faculty Strategic Plan.

4A. CASH CONTRIBUTION Please provide details of any proposed UA cash contributions (if any).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source (e.g. School / Faculty / Other)</th>
<th>Cash $ Amount Per Annum</th>
<th>Confirmed? Yes / No / Requested</th>
</tr>
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4B. STAFF IN-KIND COMMITMENTS Please provide details of proposed UA staff in-kind contributions from each School (FTE)

(c) Which research personnel from the University of Adelaide would be involved and at what FTE %?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Researcher Name</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>% FTE</th>
<th>Level</th>
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<add more rows as necessary>

4C. OTHER IN-KIND COMMITMENTS Please provide details of any other proposed UA in-kind contributions from each School ($)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Calculated $ Amount Per Annum</th>
<th>Details (i.e. what is to be provided)</th>
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</table>

<add more rows as necessary>

5. CENTRE RESEARCH PROJECT INCOME & HDR STUDENTS Please provide an estimate of the expected:
   a) Total ARC Funding Request;
   b) Per annum Centre income coming to the University of Adelaide; and
   c) Total number of Centre-supported UA HDR Scholarships over the lifespan of the Centre

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total ARC Funding request</th>
<th>Per annum ARC Funding Request</th>
<th>Per Annum Centre Income to UA</th>
<th>Total No. of UA HDR students over life of Centre</th>
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6. PROPOSED NEXT STEPS IN DEVELOPING YOUR SUBMISSION

BENEFIT:COST ASSESSMENT (to be completed by Research Branch)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Direct $ Income</th>
<th>Est. Total Block Grant Income $</th>
<th>Total Cash and In-Kind Cost $</th>
<th>Benefit : Cost Ratio</th>
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<td>$</td>
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ARC CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE – CE17 FUNDING ROUND

General Comments – ARC Centre of Excellence (COE) involvement

- The ARC Centre of Excellence Funding Rules (CE17) are expected to be released by the ARC late in April 2015 (this will mean a likely closing date for ARC Expressions of Interest of mid to late June, date to be confirmed).
- Following the release of the Funding Rules ARC will offer information sessions around Australia to provide administrators and potential Centre Directors and Chief Investigators with information about the ARC Centres of Excellence scheme and the new Funding Rules. More information will follow as it becomes available.
- It is likely that the ARC will introduce a change in the salary on-costs which can be requested from the ARC from 28% to 30%.
- A reminder that the Centres of Excellence is ARC’s flagship scheme. These Centres are highly competitive. It is essential to demonstrate that you are drawing together outstanding researchers with excellent track records AND that the program of research is profound, innovative, transformational, exciting and timely. The proposed Centre Director must be a researcher of exceptional ability and reputation (an international leader in their field with a proven record of leading large and complex research programs).
- While it is expected that Centres will be highly connected, involve significant collaboration and be multi-disciplinary – care should be given to ensure that the application cannot be construed as Medical and Dental Research. The ARC does not fund Medical and Dental Research. If it is primarily and substantially aimed at understanding or treating a human disease or human health condition – it will be ineligible. Because of this, consideration and care should be given to partnering with Medical Research Institutes in the context of Centre of Excellence proposals – as this can be an indicator to ARC of a medical focus.
- You need to demonstrate that you are pulling together the best team in Australia to undertake the proposed program of research.

Proposed Centre Directors

- The ARC has advised that the following key features are important for the proposed Centre Director. The Centre Director must:
  - Have a big vision
  - Be outward looking
  - Have a compelling research question
  - Be able to explain this to a broad audience
  - Propose topical and practical research, but also blue sky research with unexpected outcomes
  - Be a mentor and a leader at the cutting edge of your field, able to take the research to an internationally outstanding level
  - It is not about what you have done, but what you are going to do
  - Teamwork is important: have the ability to pull together all the right people in an effective manner
  - Be a centre builder
  - Not be at the end of your career; what is the legacy this proposal will leave to the next generation in terms of project outcomes and resources
  - If at regional university, demonstrate strong research commitment

June 3, 2015
Some statistics

In the last round (funding commencing in 2014):

- **Nationally**
  - ARC considered a total of 103 EOIs submitted nationally – these were shortlisted to 22 (21.4% success rate)
  - Of the 22 proposals requested to submit full proposals, all were interviewed and 12 were successful (54.4% success rate)
- **At the University of Adelaide**
  - UofA submitted 3 EOIs (as Administering Organisation) – one of these was shortlisted and ultimately funded (ARC Centre of Excellence in Nanoscale BioPhotonics). ARC funding awarded was 82% of the total requested.
  - UofA is involved in a further 3 CoEs from the 2014 round, as Nodes.
- The **ARC may fund only 10 CoEs** in this coming round.

University of Adelaide Contribution and Support to Centre bids

- It is expected that minimal financial information will be required by the ARC at the EOI stage. Therefore, final decisions on acceptable UofA leverage requirements and return on investment (ROI) rates will be negotiated after the ARC has completed their shortlisting of EOIs. As a general rule the expected ROI will be between 4:1 and 3:1 of ARC funding for University cash investment.
- There is an expectation that University of Adelaide cash contributions to CoEs will involve support from School and Faculty (and other) sources as well as from the DVCs Office.
- It is also expected that little by way of governance will need to be explained in the ARC EOI.
- It is recommended that Centre of Excellence proposals (at least those led by the University of Adelaide) limit the number of national partnering University organisations to not more than 4. When there are more than 4 Australian Universities involved as Nodes/Collaborating Organisations – returns of ARC funding may be too diluted to make involvement worthwhile.
- Involvement as a Chief Investigator (CI) on a Centre bid. When considering whether to be a nominated CI on a Centre bid – researchers should ensure that the return from involvement in the Centre will be more lucrative than that which can be secured via an average ARC Discovery Project. CI involvement in a Centre restricts your ability to apply for other ARC grants under the Discovery Program – so you need to make sure that it is a worthwhile investment of your time and track record.

Bioplatforms Australia Support for ARC Centre of Excellence Research Proposals

Bioplatforms Australia (BPA) administers Commonwealth Government NCRIS investments in genomics, proteomics, metabolomics and supporting bioinformatics to maximise impact of the nation’s research in the bioscience sector and to maintain our world—class reputation. Bioplatforms Australia will provide cash equivalent support for successful ARC Centre of Excellence (CoE) grant proposals in the form of access arrangements to the NCRIS capability. This capability includes high quality, large scale capacity staffed with technical and scientific expertise across a broad range of endeavours. BPA has supported a number of successful ARC CoEs and CRCs in previous calls by relevant Commonwealth agencies and have a track record in assisting in the development of successful applications, execution of these grants and promoting further engagement of researchers with peers and industry.

Should you wish to discuss engagement with BPA please contact the BPA General Manager Andrew Gilbert on 0410538648 or agilbert@bioplatforms.com.

ARC Grants Team, Research Branch, University of Adelaide
arcgrants@adelaide.edu.au

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Ms Karen Burke, Manager, Grants and Major Programs, (08) 8313 3534