

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors

Integrated Marine Observing System awarded a further \$25.6 million in funding

The University of Tasmania has been awarded a further \$25.6 million under the Commonwealth Government's latest research infrastructure funding schemes, to extend operation of Australia's Integrated Marine Observing System (IMOS) out to June 2015.

UTAS is the lead institution for IMOS, a national collaboration that deploys ocean-observing equipment throughout Australia's vast ocean territory. All of its data is available for research and teaching in the marine, climate and Antarctic sciences.

IMOS Director Mr Tim Moltmann welcomed the funding decision: "This is another vote of confidence for IMOS as an essential element of the national research infrastructure.

"During 2013 there was \$240 million made available under collaborative research infrastructure schemes, and 20 projects have been funded. IMOS was awarded the highest amount, about 11 per cent of the funding available, so it's clearly seen as a high priority," he said.

UTAS' Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Paddy Nixon, said the decision adds further weight to the national and international leadership role that the University plays in this area of science, working closely with the CSIRO and Australian Antarctic Division.

"As Tasmania's only University, UTAS needs to play to our natural strengths and advantages. Continued support for IMOS is vital to keeping our world-class marine, climate and Antarctic sciences at the leading edge," he said.

"The provision of high-quality longitudinal data is essential to our understanding of the health of the oceans," Prof Nixon added.

“The data, which UTAS also hosts, is a critical resource for the international research community.”

The funding will be used to maintain the IMOS program, which integrates observations from the open ocean into the coast, and across the physical, chemical and biological sciences.

“As an island nation, Australia’s future depends on having appropriate levels of information about what’s actually happening in the oceans around us, including how change and natural variability is affecting our climate and weather, and our marine ecosystems and industries,” Mr Moltmann said.

“We are very pleased that this further \$25.6 million will allow us to continue to play a key role in ocean research over the next two years,” Mr Moltmann said.

**Further queries: Jess Tyler, IMOS Communications Manager, 03 6226 7505;
jess.tyler@utas.edu.au**

Information released by:

The Communications and Media Office, University of Tasmania

Telephone: 03 6226 8518

Email: Media.Office@utas.edu.au