

## **Queensland's Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Industry off the Ground: Bligh**

A whole new industry is set to open over Queensland's skies after Deputy Premier Anna Bligh today officially launched the Australian Research Centre for Aerospace Automation, home of the fastest growing sector of international aviation research.

The \$3.53 million ARCAA facility, a joint project of the Queensland University of Technology and the CSIRO funded by the State Government, will be at the centre of exploration into the range of applications for Unmanned Aviation Vehicles in the Asia Pacific region.

Ms Bligh said ARCAA will be based at the Da Vinci precinct of Brisbane Airport and will be a centre of excellence for research into the use of UAVs in civil commercial applications.

QUT researchers estimate the development of a UAV industry has the potential to contribute \$500 million to the Queensland economy over the next decade.

Ms Bligh also announced today the State Government has allocated a further \$48,000 grant to Unmanned Technologies Australia to prepare a Manual of Standards aimed at ensuring safety measures were in place for designated UAV testing and training airspace at Kingaroy.

In addition, the State Government has given \$15,000 in sponsorship for the Australian Research Centre for Aerospace UAV workshop being staged in Brisbane this week.

"Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, or UAVs, are the next big thing in international aviation and Queensland is evolving as the leading centre for their testing and development," Ms Bligh said.

"These craft are the fastest growing area of global aerospace research and development and represent a new frontier in remote area farming among a host of other applications."

UAVs can be used in traffic and road monitoring, fisheries and wildlife surveillance, emergency services and police surveillance, agricultural spraying, stock monitoring, aerial photography and coastal surveillance.

Ms Bligh said the testing facility at Kingaroy would not only benefit researchers at the Brisbane centre but was expected to attract considerable interest from the international aerospace community.

"And that means the generation of export revenue for Queensland.

"The Beattie Government is putting money into this type of smart industry for a number of very good reasons.

"This is a smart industry for a Smart State."

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