



## Joint Media Release

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### Research collaboration lays foundations for Speedpanel® 2.0 : the next generation

Speedpanel, in collaboration with Swinburne University of Technology and with co-investment from the Innovative Manufacturing Cooperative Research Centre (IMCRC), is developing the next-generation Speedpanel 2.0.

As a leading manufacturer and supplier of fire and acoustic-rated wall systems, Speedpanel has recently partnered with Swinburne to research and develop new materials and manufacturing technology to further enhance their modular wall panel system.

Recognising the changing nature of Australia's construction sector – particularly in light of technological advances and environmental pressures – Speedpanel is investing in the next generation of its proven lightweight, fire and acoustic rated wall systems that are easy to install and widely used in the building and construction industry.

Under the leadership of Professor Jay Sanjayan, Director of Swinburne's Centre for Sustainable Infrastructure, researchers will apply advanced manufacturing principles to develop and test the structural, acoustic and fire performance of new, low-carbon materials, and incorporate them into Speedpanel's existing production environments.



“Swinburne is proud to work alongside an industry leader like Speedpanel and other collaborators, with the help of the IMCRC. This project provides a great opportunity for our team to go beyond the laboratories and use our ground-breaking research to develop new materials and technologies that have the potential to revolutionise the construction industry,” said Professor Sanjayan.

Peter Bernhardt, Innovation & Technology Manager at Speedpanel, which is Australian-owned and operated, described the ground breaking/world first research project as a major shift in how fire and acoustic rated wall systems are designed, manufactured and supplied. The three-year project is worth more than \$4.4 million in research effort.

“Speedpanel 2.0 will be a game changer for the building and construction market. New methods of manufacturing, combined with exciting, new, innovative and sustainable materials, are set to enhance our versatile range and further reduce our carbon footprint,” said Mr Bernhardt.

The project will be a collaboration with industry partners such as Independent Cement Limited, Redox and Speedfoam to leverage synergies and adopt new approaches to delivering affordable, high-quality products and services that benefit the wider building and construction industry.

David Chuter, CEO and Managing Director of IMCRC, says that Australia’s building and construction sector presents a widespread opportunity for change and greater potential for the adoption of advanced manufacturing technology.

“As part of its commitment to business transformation and continuous improvement, Speedpanel has recognised the need to further develop and evolve production processes, components and systems used to increase efficiency, productivity and respond to market demands.

“Aligning its manufacturing capabilities, and investing in the development of new materials and technologies, will create a breadth of opportunity across the entire supply chain as it develops the next generation of Speedpanel products,” Mr Chuter said.



### About Speedpanel

Speedpanel manufactures cutting-edge fire and acoustic rated non-load bearing wall systems. Speedpanel's lightweight composition, ease of installation and its superior structural properties has seen its broad acceptance throughout the building industry.

Speedpanel products have undergone continuous development including testing and certification for a wide range of fire and acoustic applications. Currently, Speedpanel is one of the most certified products in these markets within Australia.

Speedpanel continues to drive excellence throughout all aspects of manufacturing and product development with a focus on innovation and environmentally sustainable practices. This drive ensures Speedpanel plays an important role in enriching the built environment throughout Australia and the rest of the world.

For more information visit [www.speedpanel.com.au](http://www.speedpanel.com.au).

### About Swinburne

Swinburne University of Technology is an internationally recognised research-intensive university focused on delivering research that creates economic and social impact. Swinburne is committed to delivering world-leading research outcomes in select areas of science, engineering and technology. Its researchers are producing innovative research solutions to real-world problems across a range of disciplines and sectors. Swinburne is ranked among the world's top 450 universities by the 2019 Times Higher Education World University Rankings.

### About IMCRC

The IMCRC has a vision for Australian manufacturing to be thriving, relevant and globally integrated. As a not-for-profit, independent cooperative research centre, the IMCRC helps Australian companies increase their relevance through collaborative, market-driven research in manufacturing business models, products, processes, and services. More at [www.imcrc.org](http://www.imcrc.org)

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