

MEDIA RELEASE

GALE Pacific and Deakin University's Carbon Nexus to develop advanced fabric

Melbourne, 6 April 2022: The Innovative Manufacturing Cooperative Research Centre (IMCRC) has granted leading manufacturer of technical fabrics, GALE Pacific, and Deakin University \$70,000 in funding to develop an innovative fabric platform.

The 8-month, \$425,000 project will leverage the research capabilities at Deakin University's renowned Carbon Nexus facility to deliver a novel fabric with unique form and function.

The relatively lightweight, flexible and formable product is expected to suit a broad range of applications across the construction, defence, mining and agriculture sectors.

Andrew Nasarczyk, Senior Global Manager of Research and Development at GALE Pacific, said the research and development (R&D) project would help to commercialise an Australian manufactured product of significant benefit to industry.

"Innovation is a key pillar of GALE's vision and values. We are excited to engage with university partners who offer unique capabilities to develop new to world technologies which provide the potential to disrupt markets which we operate in," he said.

Prof Russell Varley, Professor of Composite Materials at Deakin University, said the IMCRC collaboration would draw on the significant local capability and capacity on offer at Deakin's purpose-built research facility.

"Carbon Nexus is leading the way in advanced fibre development and manufacturing. We're pleased to be partnering with GALE to pioneer the development of this technical fabric solution," he said.

Dr Matthew Young, IMCRC's Manufacturing Innovation Manager, sees the potential of this innovative R&D collaboration benefiting many industries across Australia.

"R&D and manufacturing go hand in hand. The project between GALE and Deakin University is a great example of a local manufacturer harnessing Australia's research capability to increase its product range and applications", he said.

"And by facilitating these projects between industry and university, we're ensuring the benefits of cutting-edge innovation are realised across Australia's manufacturing sector."

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About IMCRC

IMCRC is an independent and for-impact cooperative research centre with a successful, proven and scalable model for catalysing research and business partnerships that drives transformative commercial outcomes for participating Australian manufacturers. To date, IMCRC has successfully co-invested in more than 70 R&D projects, catalysing more than \$230 million in transformative manufacturing research. More information is available at www.imcrc.org.

IMCRC's activate program was introduced in 2020 to support shorter-term, industry-led research projects that help Australian manufacturers take action and gain a competitive edge in the post-COVID-19 world. www.imcrc.org

About GALE Pacific

GALE Pacific Limited (GALE) is a trusted leading global marketer and manufacturer of branded screening and shading products for domestic, commercial and industrial applications. GALE Pacific invented high density polyethylene (HDPE) shade fabrics in the 1970's and is today a leading global manufacturer of advanced polymer fabrics including knitted HDPE outdoor fabrics, coated HDPE and PP waterproof fabrics and PP coated mesh fabrics.

<https://www.galepacific.com/>

About Deakin University

Deakin is one of Australia's leading tertiary education providers, offering a personalised experience enhanced by world-class programs and innovative digital engagement. Deakin takes a connected approach to solving global challenges, translating high-quality research into powerful solutions, policies and capabilities. www.deakin.edu.au

For more information, please contact:

Jana Kuthe, Communications, Marketing and Events Manager, IMCRC
+61 416 735 666
jana.kuthe@imcrc.org