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September Technology Park Newsletter

Welcome to the Spring edition of the University of Ballarat Technology Park newsletter. The last quarter has been a productive and rewarding period as we have focused on forward planning, new infrastructure developments and enhancing the profile of this important regional precinct.

IBM IT Services Centre

Last week's announcement by the Premier of Victoria in relation to the proposed IBM expansion was very significant. The planning and negotiation for this major development decision occurred across an 18 month period.

It is anticipated that construction will commence on the IBM IT Services Centre within the next 8 weeks, with works undertaken over 12 months. Over an extended period (4 to 5 years) it is expected that the building will accommodate 300 plus IT staff. Whilst the business functions within the building will be determined over time, it is anticipated that the IT Services Centre will undertake:

- Business processing and business transformation services
- Software application development and management
- Product operations (storage, security, data base management)
- Call Centre and technical support

Please refer to the attached at the end of this report, namely:

- University Media Release, Wednesday, August 27, 2008
- Ballarat Courier lead story on Thursday, August 28, 2008

Submission to the Higher Education Endowment Fund (HEEF)

In the June newsletter, I indicated that the University was in the process of developing an application to the Federal Government for capital works and infrastructure development funding under the Higher Education Endowment Fund (Education Investment Fund). I can now report that in mid August the University submitted an Expression of Interest application to the Federal Government for \$19 million approx.

The University's application centres on the establishment of an Innovation and Enterprise Centre (IEC) within the University of Ballarat Technology Park (UBTP), comprising three major capital works projects, namely:

- An IT Professional Practice Facility – a centre for educational and pedagogical excellence for the education and training of the University's TAFE, undergraduate and postgraduate students for professional practice in information technology, linked with:



- An Innovation and Research Hub incorporating the University's Centres and Laboratories for:
 - Informatics and Applied Optimization
 - Internet Commerce Security
 - eHealth
- An IBM IT Services Centre

The IEC will involve a total investment of \$37.7 million and will be the focal point of the UBTP; making it the largest, integrated Technology Park in regional Australia. The UBTP currently employs 1350 people across 30 companies on a co-located, "green-fields site" immediately adjacent to the Mt Helen Campus of the University.

Financial contributions have been secured from a range of government and industry partners to a value approximating \$19 million. On the basis of these contributions, the University of Ballarat will now be seeking \$18.8 million in funding from the Higher Education Endowment Fund (HEEF) for the establishment of the IEC on the UBTP.

Planning for Growth of UBTP

Over recent months significant emphasis has been given to forward planning to enable the growth of the UBTP. This work will continue into 2009 as we attempt to address the following:

- A need for additional office accommodation for technology based 'start up' businesses and emerging small to medium sized enterprises. Currently, demand for space is outstripping supply and a range of strategies are being explored to address this situation
- A need to acquire additional land to ensure the planned expansion of the UBTP. The University is currently exploring its options in this regard and a development strategy will be forged over the next 12 months

Obviously the IBM IT Services Centre and the HEEF application have heightened the need for a pro-active approach to planning for growth within the UBTP.

Technology Park Breakfasts

The new format of the UBTP and Ballarat IT Specialists Breakfast has worked well with solid attendances in 2008. Please note the upcoming Breakfasts and speakers:

**Tuesday, September 16, 7.45 am, Mr. Stephen Mc Combie,
Manager IT Security Assessment and Response, National Australia Bank**

**Tuesday, October 21, 7.45 am, Professor Bill Applebe, Director,
Victorian Partnership for Advanced Computing (to be confirmed)**

I would encourage you to diarise the above

Please call or email me if you require additional information or advice in relation to the above.

Mal Vallance

Director – Business Development



300 new IT jobs for city

(Source: The Courier, Ballarat)

PREMIER John Brumby took the high ground while announcing 300 new jobs in Ballarat yesterday. Mr Brumby perched on top of a ladder to address the staff of IBM Australia, announcing a new \$10.8 million IT Services Centre would be built at the University of Ballarat Technology Park. "This is a big step forward for one of the nation's most vibrant regional centres," Mr Brumby said. "This is a massive vote of confidence in Ballarat."

The centre will manage specialist ICT services, software application development, ICT support and consulting for IBM's global operations, servicing clients across the United States, Europe and the Asia Pacific region. It is expected to create 300 jobs over the next five years and pump an estimated \$61 million into the local economy.

The centre will be a partnership between IBM Australia, the City of Ballarat, the University of Ballarat and the State Government, which has contributed \$5 million from the Regional Infrastructure Development Fund to help build the 3500 square metre building.

Mr Brumby said IBM had been a major player in the University of Ballarat Technology Park since its inception. "This company is investing again in the city's future."

IBM integrated technology services manager for Australia and New Zealand John Twine said it was "great to ... continue our journey with Ballarat".

"Ballarat offers not only the infrastructure, but also high quality graduates who enable us to accelerate the development of innovative technology solutions for our clients across the globe," Mr Twine said.

University of Ballarat Vice-Chancellor Professor David Battersby said IBM was an "important anchor tenant" of the technology park.

"Currently, IBM employs 817 people in Ballarat and 50 per cent of these comprise graduates or students of the university," he said.

Information and Communication Technology Minister Theo Theophanous said IBM's decision to base its centre in Ballarat reaffirmed Victoria's place at the centre of Australia's ICT industry. "These things do not happen by accident, but is a strategic collaboration."

Ballarat has the largest proportion of ICT employees in regional Victoria and the third largest in regional Australia.



*Professor David Battersby,
Vice-Chancellor,
University of Ballarat*

(Source: The Courier, Ballarat)

IBM Announces major development at UB Technology Park

The University of Ballarat and IBM Australia will construct a new \$10.8 million IT Services Centre at the University of Ballarat Technology Park (UBTP). Made possible with the support of IBM Australia, Victorian Government, University of Ballarat and City of Ballarat, the Centre will lead to the creation of 300 jobs.

A ceremony to mark the announcement will be held at the Greenhill Enterprise Centre, University Drive, Mt Helen, at 9.30 am today, Wednesday.

Professor David Battersby, Vice-Chancellor of the University, said the new development demonstrated the significance and maturity of the relationship between IBM and the University. "The University is delighted with IBM's latest business growth decision as it will enhance the levels of collaboration between the enterprise and the University," Professor Battersby said. "Currently IBM employ 817 people in Ballarat and 50 per cent of these comprise graduates or students of the University. IBM is an important anchor tenant of the University's Technology Park and IBM has attracted additional technology based businesses to Ballarat.

IBM has been a key factor in ensuring that the UBTP is Australia's leading regional technology park, with 1350 employees across 30 enterprises," Professor Battersby said. "The UBTP has established itself as a leading innovation and research precinct incorporating technology based enterprises and the University's research centres and laboratories. We also would like to thank the Victorian Government and City of Ballarat for their assistance and support for this new IBM centre on the Park."

Peter Campbell, General Manager, Global Technology Services, IBM Australia and New Zealand, said he was delighted with the proposed expansion of the enterprise in Ballarat. "Ballarat provides a competitive business environment, skilled and capable labour via the University, all within a Technology Park that values innovation and enterprise working together," Mr Campbell said.

This important infrastructure development initiative will enable IBM to take on 300 additional staff, working in areas such as business processing, security, call centre and technical support.