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**THE AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH NETWORK FOR FLUORESCENCE APPLICATIONS IN
BIOTECHNOLOGY AND LIFE SCIENCES.**

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A new research network has been established to bring together the leading Australian researchers and developers of fluorescence technologies. The Australian Research Network for Fluorescence Applications in Biotechnology and Life Sciences (FABLS) was designed to inspire and coordinate multi-disciplinary research programs relating to applications of fluorescence. The Australian Government is providing the Network with \$2 million in joint funding (2004-2009) through the Australian Research Council (ARC) and the National Health and Medical Research Council (NH&MRC). FABLS currently integrates activities of over 70 members from 40 organisations, including 16 private sector companies. While the Network is based in Australia, current membership also includes researchers from the USA, Germany, India, New Zealand and Russia. Through its focus on academic-industry collaboration, the Network will help turn basic scientific discoveries into commercial outcomes. Examples of cross-disciplinary projects undertaken by Network members include the development of time-resolved fluorescence instrumentation for ultra-sensitive microbial screening, laser-based rapid biochemical assays to recognise heart attack; extraction of commercially significant fluorescent proteins native to Australian reef corals; and the search for specific microorganisms in complex environments such as industrial waste using high level multiplex fluorescent probes. The Network aims to foster national and international collaborations and invites researchers from around the globe to consider participating in its activities. For further information, visit us at <http://www.physics.mq.edu.au/research/fluoronet/>.