

Media Coverage

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State Government provides \$1 million to innovative companies 2011-03-30

The State Government has announced \$1 million in funding for five innovative Queensland companies to enable them to introduce new technologies and increase productivity.

Treasurer and Minister for State Development and Trade Andrew Fraser said Beaudesert-based Gelita Australia had been awarded \$250,000 to implement a new method of extracting high-quality gelatine from hides.

Mr Fraser said the new method could open up a massive new export market by making gelatine suitable for the manufacture of capsules and other high-grade gelatine products.

“This grant will contribute to a \$10 million expansion plan that will enable Gelita to produce a high quality premium product competitive to international standards, opening up a range of new opportunities for the company,” Mr Fraser said.

“Previously the food industry was their only market, however the new product can also be used in the photographic, beauty and health industries.

“It will generate significant export opportunities, and local pharmaceutical producers will be able to reduce their reliance on imported products.”

Gelita general manager Pablo Silber said gelatine around the world was generally extracted from clean and dehaired beef hide sourced from tanneries, but the company had developed a new hide treatment process that could consistently supply pharmaceutical-grade gelatine from hide sourced directly from abattoirs.

“Because of the limited size of the tanning industry in Australia, clean and dehaired hides receive a premium price making them unsuitable for producing commercially viable gelatine,” Mr Silber said.

“This led us to develop a world-first process that will enable us to extract high quality gelatine from hides sourced directly from abattoirs.

“This will allow us to keep control of the entire manufacturing process, and particularly the traceability of our final product, which is critical to the food and pharmaceutical industries.

“The successful completion of this project will showcase a process suitable for use in any hide treatment facility around the world, but we’ll have the advantage to have developed it and done it first.”

Mr Fraser said the grant was funded through the Business and Industry Transformation Incentives

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(BITI) scheme, which aimed to help Queensland companies boost their competitiveness and create jobs.

Other companies to receive BITI grants are:

Defiance Maize (Warwick) - \$250,000 to purchase and install new equipment that has the potential to double production output of high-quality maize

Ecospecifier (Brisbane) - \$210,970 to develop a computer system to measure carbon outputs on building projects

Royce Water Technologies (Brisbane) - \$42,215 for a technology that converts wasted sludge into energy

Very Small Particle Company (Brisbane) – \$250,000 to develop a technology to improve lithium iron phosphate, a compound found in rechargeable batteries

Mr Fraser said since the BITI Scheme was introduced in 2007, 31 progressive Queensland companies had received a combined funding total of almost \$6 million.

“Businesses operating in Queensland’s priority industry sectors can apply for between \$30,000 and \$250,000 for projects with the potential to grow their business and their industry,” Mr Fraser said.

“The BITI scheme supports projects that will ensure businesses are well positioned to handle the challenges of changing market conditions and flourish in the times ahead.

“Now more than ever, businesses need to stand out by being innovative and efficient and BITI is all about showing how this can be done.”

For further information on the Business and Industry Transformation Incentives, the DEEDI Service Centre on 13 25 23 or your local DEEDI Centre or forward an email with a brief outline of your project to BITI@deedi.qld.gov.au

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