

AUSTRALIAN FIRST AIB LABS CELEBRATES A DECADE OF ACHIEVEMENT

National and international researchers can access specialist equipment and expertise via a South Australian initiative, AIB Labs, which this week celebrates a decade of achievement. The AIB Labs initiative has become a crucial segment of South Australia's bioscience landscape, adding to the State's reputation for research excellence.

Access to sophisticated equipment and expertise is crucial for companies and institutions to successfully carry out research. However, such infrastructure is cost prohibitive for small enterprises and requires expert knowledge to operate. Adelaide Integrated Bioscience Laboratories (AIB Labs) has successfully supported and networked specialist laboratories across the State, allowing companies and other institutions to access such specialised instrumentation and perform leading edge R&D here in SA.

Member facilities include the Advanced DNA Forensic Facility which uses advanced DNA technologies for forensic identification of highly degraded remains. The facility has provided critical identifications for a number of state Police agencies in missing persons and murder cases.

The Plant Accelerator[®] is the most recent addition to the AIB Labs. The facility offers imaging and analysis technologies that help relate the physical attributes of plants such as drought and salinity tolerance, water use efficiency and nutrient use efficiency, to their genetic make-up. This knowledge accelerates the development of new and improved crops, healthier food and more sustainable agricultural practices.

The Australian first has also given rise to successful SA companies such as CPR Pharma Services, who has recently expanded into Singapore. AIB Labs now comprises 18 high-end laboratories across Adelaide, offering services all the way from microfluidics to genome research. It is attracting national and international clients from a broad spectrum of research fields, and recently the model has inspired a similar network in Melbourne.

"AIB Labs has built up the networking and support base and allowed companies to do R&D that they couldn't normally do here in SA," said the Hon Tom Kenyon, Minister for Science and Information Economy. "I congratulate AIB Labs on a decade of service and adding to our State's reputation of research excellence".

About AIB Labs

An initiative of BioSA and South Australia's three universities, the AIB Labs are a gateway to the most advanced equipment and expertise in research and development in life science. There are currently 18 AIB Labs which provide access to equipment and technical expertise across a diverse spectrum of bioscience areas. The facilities are located at strategic locations throughout Adelaide to enable efficient access by research institutions and companies. Further information <http://www.bioinnovationsa.com.au/aib-labs>

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