



Australian food cluster to run on green hydrogen located in the NSW Hunter and Central Coast region

Sydney, Australia – 20 October 2021 - A new industry-led hydrogen cluster is being established on the New South Wales Central Coast as a collaboration of Berkeley Vale - based Star Scientific Limited and Central Coast Industry Connect Limited.

The two entities have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that will pioneer the use of Star Scientific's award-winning HERO® technology to provide a carbon-free heat source for food manufacturing.

The venture will be known as the Central Coast Hydrogen Food Cluster. It will involve Star Scientific working with food companies to provide carbon-free heat and the Central Coast Industry Connect running the cluster and providing the governance structure and platform for collaboration.

Global Group Chairman of Star Scientific, Andrew Horvath, said he was particularly excited that the first commercial application of HERO® in the world would be in Star Scientific's home on the Central Coast.

"Food manufacturers all over the world are looking for solutions to remove carbon from industrial processes such as heating, drying and cleaning. The Central Coast region is home to some of Australia's biggest household brands and global food manufacturers, many of whom are realising the potential of hydrogen and our HERO® technology to meet their heating needs.

"We have already commenced work under this MoU providing heat for industrial-scale cleaning purposes in the food hub. This exciting work will demonstrate how our HERO® can pave the way for Australian food manufacturers to reduce emissions.

"The gazetting by the New South Wales (NSW) Government of the Central Coast as a Renewable Energy Zone and the recent release of a visionary hydrogen strategy for NSW is the icing on the cake," said Mr Horvath.

"Taking steps to decarbonise is important for the manufacturing sector as a whole, including food and beverage manufacturing," said Frank Sammut, Executive Director of the Central Coast Industry Connect.

"Manufacturers have turned to renewable electricity sources to reduce their carbon footprint but alternatives to gas for heating and cooking continues to be a challenge across a number of uses. The MoU with Star Scientific provides the opportunity for developing that alternative carbon free heat source," concluded Mr Sammut.

Mr Horvath said that the cluster would be designed to be as inclusive as possible and hoped to engage and share knowledge with similar ventures emerging across Australia and New Zealand.

"Knowledge and skills sharing with similar clusters emerging around Australia and New Zealand, is of paramount importance to increase efficiency around these processes.

"In particular, we want this cluster to be a 'incubator' of regulatory issues for the hydrogen supply chain, and more specifically, 'green' hydrogen made from renewable energy. Regulators are coming



to grips with the use of green hydrogen and we hope the cluster will enable us to identify those issues early in the process and deal with them,” concluded Mr Horvath.

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About Star Scientific

Star Scientific is a leading hydrogen research and development company based in Australia, with a global reach and scope. The company develops technologies to help businesses and governments transition to a new energy economy. Our unique breakthrough is the Hydrogen Energy Release Optimiser, also known as HERO®. It produces unlimited, affordable, safe and reliable heat and energy – with zero emissions.

About Central Coast Industry Connect Limited

Central Coast Industry Connect limited (CCIC) is a not-for-profit organisation that supports the Central Coast manufacturing sector to unlock opportunities through collaboration.

It uses its deep experience, connections, and sector knowledge to advocate on behalf of industry, to identify opportunities, build a trusted network and unlock possibilities for the sector in People (Skills), Products and Markets. Its vision is for a vibrant, connected, and innovative industry that contributes to the social and economic prosperity of the region. The Central Coast Food Alliance is a Cluster of CCIC.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION - Media contact

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