



Star Scientific to provide carbon-free industrial heat for Mars Food Australia in industry-first pilot

Central Coast Hydrogen Food Cluster pilot using hydrogen and HERO® set to become a game changer for food manufacturing

Sydney, Australia – 7 December 2021 – The Central Coast Hydrogen Food Cluster and Star Scientific Limited have today announced the first applied research project of its HERO® technology, using hydrogen to provide heat for industrial-scale sanitation with Mars Food Australia.

“Over the course of the past year there has been a significant shift in the conversation around hydrogen with a new sense of urgency across industries. The global food manufacturing sector is demanding a green pathway to process heat for cooking and cleaning,” said Star Scientific’s Global Group Chairman, Mr Andrew Horvath.

“Our HERO® technology answers the call; it is a non-polluting catalyst that uses hydrogen to generate zero emission, limitless heat necessary for many major industrial applications without any combustion.”

Bill Heague, General Manager, Mars Food Australia, said, “As a global company we are committed to decarbonising our processes and working towards being ‘Sustainable in a Generation’, which includes investing in renewable energy and process heat. This pilot provides a real and tangible step towards a more sustainable future, and we are thrilled to be involved.”

The 18-month pilot is part of the Central Coast Hydrogen Food Cluster, a new industry-led hydrogen collaboration on the New South Wales Central Coast between Star Scientific Limited and Central Coast Industry Connect Limited.

“With the establishment of the Central Coast Hydrogen Food Cluster we have the platform for industry players to be involved in the development of alternative heat sources for the food industry using hydrogen,” said Frank Sammut, Executive Director of the Central Coast Industry Connect.

“Having a global company like Mars Food Australia taking part in this first pilot project demonstrates the will and the need of industry to move forward with becoming truly ‘Clean and Green’ and will showcase the enormous opportunity of this technology in the local and international marketplace.”

Star Scientific will undertake extensive testing and consultation with Mars Food Australia, regulators and relevant government agencies, throughout the development process of the pilot. Once completed, it will provide a foundational framework for the development of other heat sources used in food manufacturing.

“We are really excited about being able to demonstrate how our HERO® can pave the way for Australian food manufacturers to reduce emissions, and very grateful for the support from all levels of government for this pilot. For us, it’s a recognition of the critical role that the cluster will play as an ‘incubator’ of regulatory issues for the hydrogen supply chain and more specifically, ‘green’ hydrogen made from renewable energy. This will enable us to identify challenges and provide solutions,” concluded Mr Horvath.



The Central Coast Hydrogen Food Cluster, which launched last month, was established following an MoU between Central Coast Industry Connect limited and Star Scientific Limited to pioneer the use of the award-winning HERO® technology and provide a carbon-free heat source for food manufacturing.

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.

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