

CSIRO And Petronas In Research Deal

Research into oil and gas exploration and production and wider energy technologies has received a funding boost following the signing of a Strategic Alliance Agreement between the CSIRO and Petronas, the national petroleum company of Malaysia.

The agreement builds on the long-standing relationship between the two organisations and formalises collaborative activities, including petroleum exploration and production, advanced materials, clean coal technology and renewable energy.

"There is alignment between Petronas' research and CSIRO's National Research Flagships, and it is positive to see that their aspirations are closely linked to ours", said Dr Bev Ronalds, CSIRO Group Executive for Energy.

"Improving petroleum exploration and production efficiency remains a focus for Petronas, and a number of CSIRO projects will help them to address these challenges."

CSIRO's capabilities in advanced materials is also of interest to Petronas, with technology in nanocomposites, biodegradable polymers and reinforced plastics being applied to their current business practices to repair pipelines and improve durability of infrastructure.

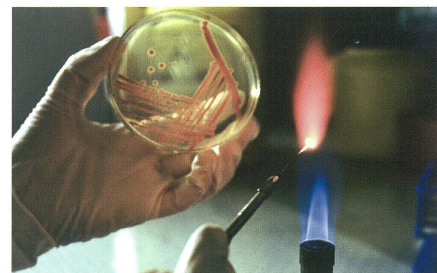
"Advanced materials is a very exciting area of research and its application to the petroleum industry will have enormous benefit", said Ronalds.



Dr Bev Ronalds, CSIRO Group Executive, Energy and Dr Abdul Rahim Hj Hashim, Vice President of Research & Technology Division, Petronas, sign the Strategic Alliance Agreement, with Mr Phillip Allars, State Director, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia looking on.

The agreement also identifies a number of areas of potential collaboration with the University of Technology of Petronas, including training and development, co-supervision of post-graduate students, sharing of facilities and research.

A number of the collaborative projects form part of the new Australian Gas Centre (AusGas) initiative developed by CSIRO with the WA Energy Research Alliance (WA ERA). The AusGas proposal was met with a positive response by Petronas and discussions will continue on areas of partnership in gas research. ■



Microbially enhanced oil production research explores the use of microbes in petroleum reservoirs to enhance the amount of oil that can be recovered.