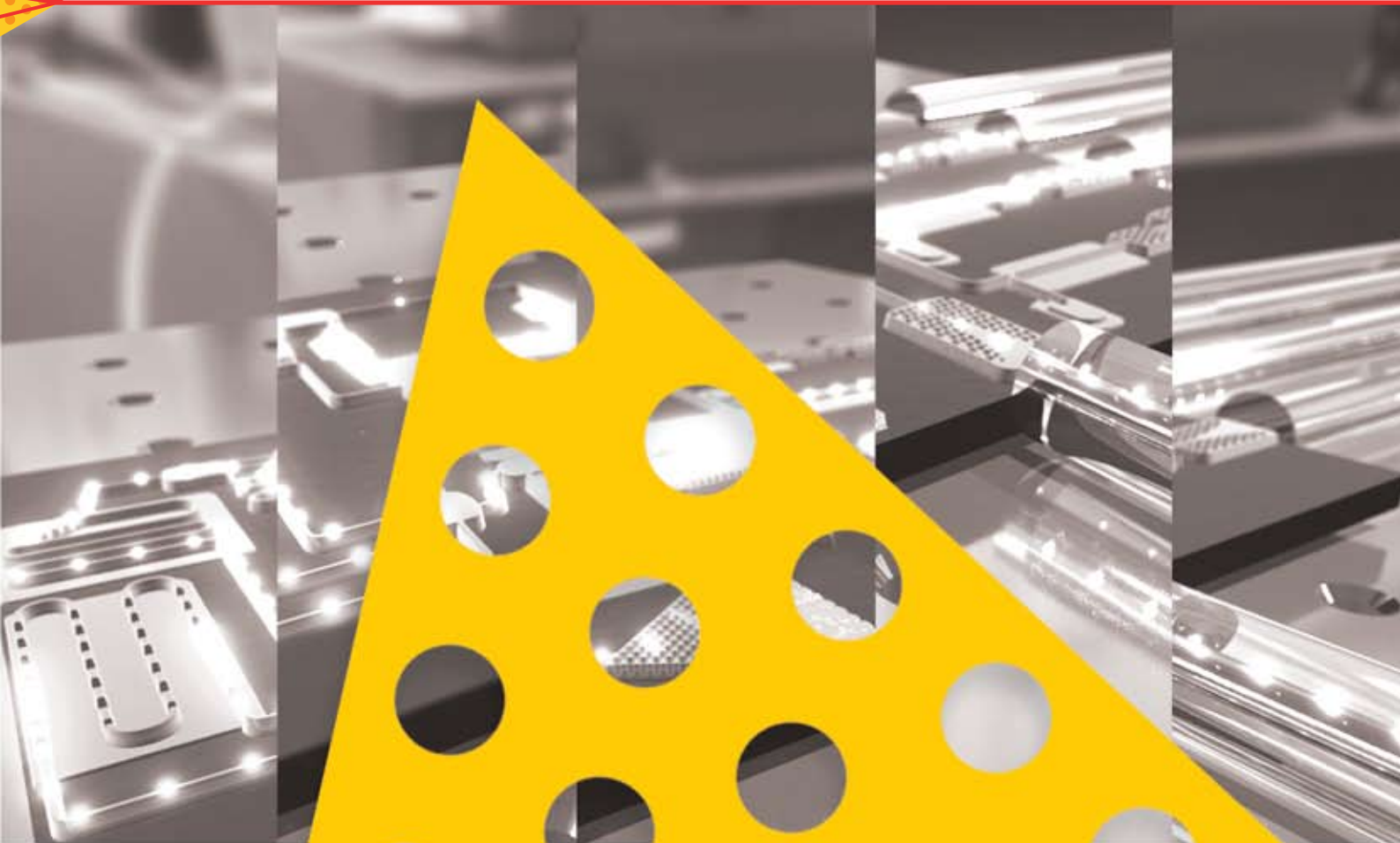




CUDOS

The Centre for Ultrahigh bandwidth Devices for Optical Systems (CUDOS)
An Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence



Annual Report 2007

Structure

CUDOS is a collaborative research program between the University of Sydney, the Australian National University, Macquarie University, Swinburne University of Technology and the University of Technology, Sydney, funded under the ARC Centre of Excellence program. RMIT will join the collaboration commencing 2008. The Centre has no legal status and all assets – IP, equipment etc – are owned by the collaborating Universities.

The University of Sydney manages the ARC grant and disburses funds in accordance with an agreement signed off between the Universities. The agreements covering the management of the Centre are the ARC Funding Contract, the Collaborator Agreement and the CUDOS Intellectual Property Agreement. The University of Sydney has also signed a Deed of Agreement with the state government of New South Wales (through the Department of State and Regional Development) for the disbursement and management of state government funds.

Centre Management

Research:

The Centre employed a new set of management arrangements during 2007. Chief Investigators and the Chief Operations Officer met six times during the year, twice in a round-table meeting with the Project Managers and the other four times by teleconference. Flagship Project Managers submitted progress reports to the Research Director for discussion at every second meeting. The sequence of meetings, which will continue into 2008 commencing with a planning meeting in early February, was as follows:

January: Chief Investigators plus Project Managers met in Sydney to set objectives for 2007

March: Chief Investigator teleconference; first reports from Project Managers

May: Chief Investigator teleconference

July: Chief Investigators plus Project Managers meeting; mid-year research review based on second reports from Project Managers

September: Chief Investigator teleconference (cancelled)

November: Chief Investigator teleconference; final reports from Project Managers



The CUDOS Project Managers: Arnan Mitchell, Christian Grillet, Graham Marshall, Baohua Jia, Mark Pelusi, Christelle Monat.



CUDOS Chief Investigators.

Commercialisation:

The Centre's Commercialisation Committee comprises the Research Director, the Chief Operations Officer and representatives from each University's commercial office. The Committee's composition and activities during 2007 are discussed further in the section on Links and Commercialisation.

Advisory Board

The Centre's Advisory Board was re-constituted during 2007 following the decision by Dr Simon Poole (chair, 2003 – 2006) to step down due to pressure of work. In inviting new Board members we were careful to address ARC requirements that the Board must comprise "senior staff of the ARC Centre of Excellence, industry or end-user community groups, academic expertise from at least one other higher education institution, visiting senior international fellows and senior university staff such as the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research)". Our Board is:

Professor Bob Watts FAA (Chair), ex-Chief Scientist of BHP Billiton and previously Professor of Chemistry at the University of Melbourne;

Dr David Skellern, CEO of National ICT Australia (NICTA);

Professor Merlin Crossley, Professor Jim Williams, Professor Jim Piper and **Professor Sue Rowley**, who represent different universities in CUDOS. Prof Piper is also an internationally-recognised expert in lasers and photonics while Prof Williams is internationally-recognised for his research on advanced materials;

Dr Steve Frisken, Vice President of Wavelength Products, Optium Inc;

Dr Mike Sargent, formerly CEO of ACTEW, a Board member of the ARC and currently chairing the DEST NCRIS Committee;

Dr Ian Ritchie, Chairman of Redfern Polymer Optics and formerly CEO of JDS Uniphase (Australia);

Mr Warwick Watkins, Director General of the Department of Lands, Registrar General and Surveyor General (NSW);

Mr Laurie Bode, Director Airborne Self Protection Systems Program Office, Defence Materiel Organisation;

Dr Isaac Shariv, Director, Sydnovate, University of Sydney.

At the suggestion of the Chairman, we also invited a CUDOS student representative to attend the Board meetings. In 2007 this was Mr Nemanja Jovanovic of Macquarie University.



Some of the CUDOS Board Members, after the 2007 meeting: Jim Piper, Ben Eggleton, Ian Ritchie, Steve Frisken, Laurie Bode, Bob Watts (Chair), Mike Sargent, Isaac Shariv, David Skellern, Nem Jovanovic.

The Board met once in 2007 in November, at the University of Sydney. All Sydney-based members of CUDOS were invited to meet with the Board at the conclusion of the meeting. In 2008 we plan to return to the custom of earlier years and hold two meetings per year with meetings rotated between different venues.