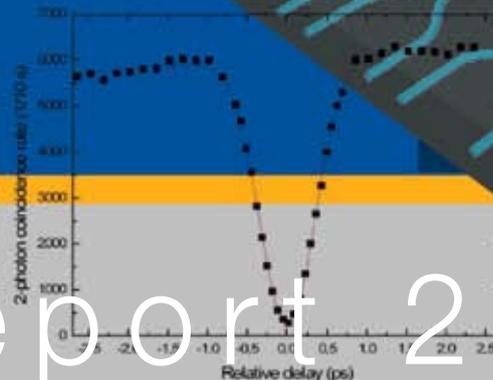
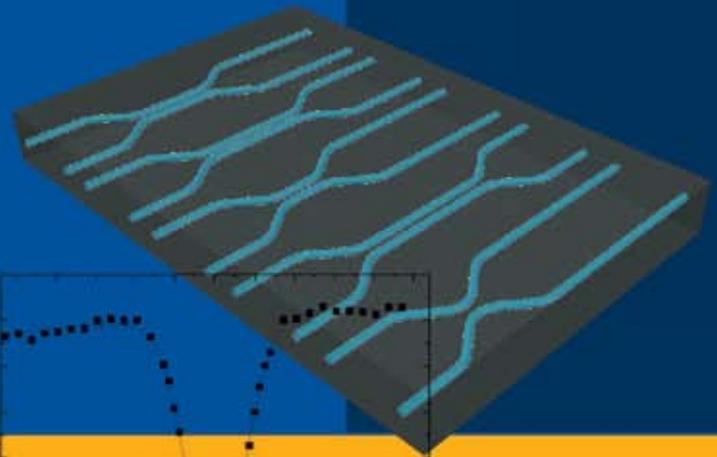
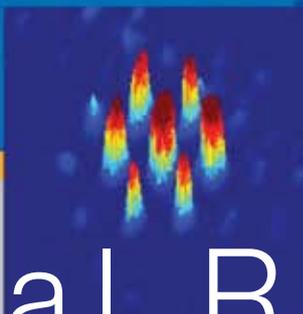
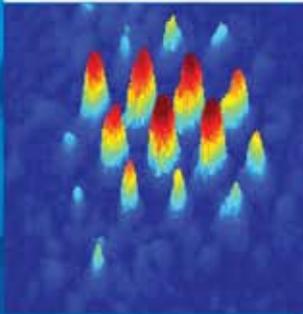
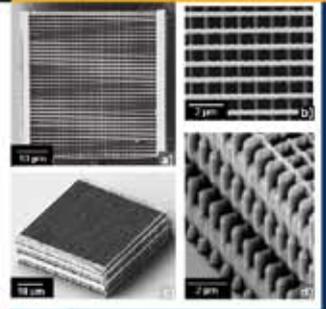
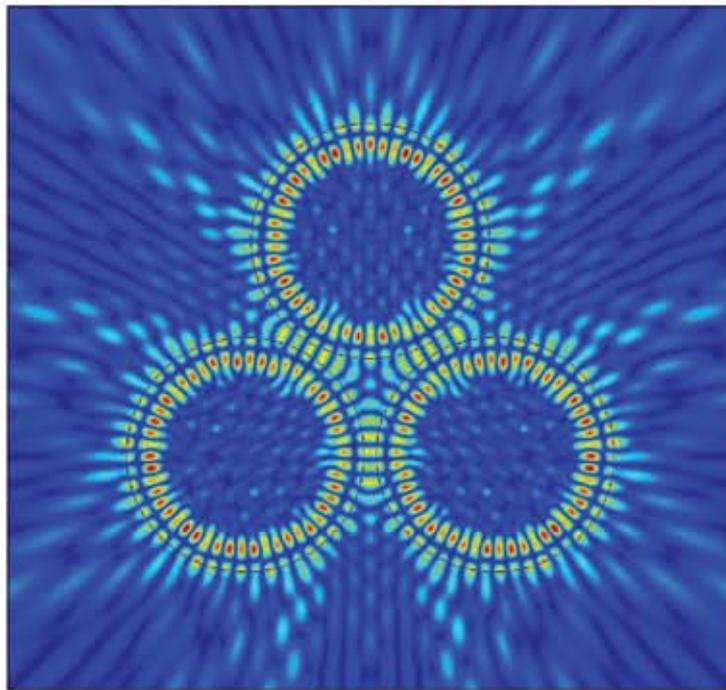
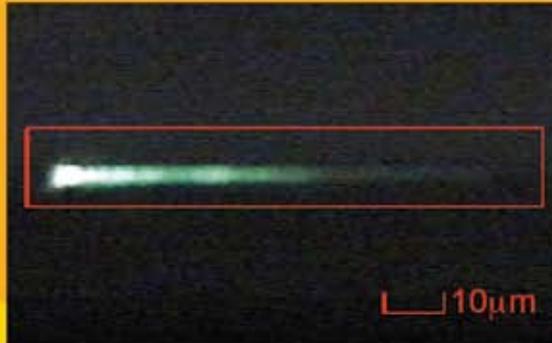


CUDOS

The Centre for Ultrahigh bandwidth Devices for Optical Systems (CUDOS)



Annual Report 2008

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 joined the collaboration in 2008 through A/Prof Arnan Mitchell, our new Chief Investigator. 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.

As a condition of the Centre extension 2008 – 2010, the University of Sydney signed a new Funding Contract with the Commonwealth and all six collaborating Universities signed a new Agreement for management of the grant as well as a new Intellectual Property Agreement. The University of Sydney signed a new Deed of Agreement with the NSW State Government and a new agreement with Macquarie University to manage the State Government funds.

Centre Governance

Research

The Centre's research management structure is well bedded-down, with Project Managers working closely with Chief Investigators to plan and manage research activities both year by year and link this with strategic goals with a three to five year horizon. Part of this management structure is a yearly cycle of meetings, synchronised with our reporting obligations to the Australian Research Council:

January 2008: Project Managers, Chief Investigators meet (at Newport) to review progress of Flagship projects and agree on research plan for the coming year.

February 2008: CUDOS Workshop at Murrumarang.

March 2008: Annual Report submitted to ARC with review of 2007 activities and plans for 2008.

August 2008: Mid year review (at Sydney University) attended by Chief Investigators, Project Managers and other senior research staff in Centre.

February 2009: Flagship project reviews for 2008 and planning for 2009.

Commercialisation

The Centre's Commercialisation Committee comprises the Research Director, the Chief Operations Officer and representatives from each University's commercial office. The Committee is being re-constituted following the renegotiation of the Centre IP Agreement, with very similar functions and responsibilities as before.

Advisory Board

The Centre's Advisory Board met once during the year, at the Australian National University in May 2008. The agenda of the meeting included consideration of the following items:

Budget position – a review of the Centre's financial position

Key Performance Indicators – the Board has discussed the relevance of the ARC's performance indicators particularly with respect to delivery of project outcomes. For those from industry, the use of metric-based indicators should be complemented by clearly articulated key performance indicators to enable the achievement of our research program goals to be measured. Indicators like number of papers published and number of invited talks presented, while valuable, are one step removed from the more direct measures espoused by the Board.

CUDOS strategic planning and KPIs – this agenda item was driven by the Board's desire for research-driven KPIs. Accordingly, Centre staff developed a series of such indicators, a few for each of our projects. As an example, a KPI for our Nonlinear Optical Signal Processing project could be to see one of our nonlinear devices evaluated in an ultrahigh bit rate test bed operated by a leading systems group as part of a collaborative evaluation of this technology.

Commercialisation: we reported on activities in this area

Education, Training and Outreach – we discussed the results of a recent survey of students by our student Board representative Nemanja Jovanovic.