



The PRIME iHub News

Newsletter #3, March, 2018

Where are we up to?

The iHub team has been busy holding discussions with the Australian government's Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) and finalising our submission for consideration of support and funding.

Key steps in the process so far:

November 15 – Expression of interest submitted to ARENA

November 23 – iHub draft proposal submitted via ARENA Net

December 7 – Presentation to ARENA Advisory Panel for consideration

December 19 – ARENA formally invited iHub to provide a submission of a full application in early 2018

February 22 – Workshop with ARENA to confirm and clarify elements of draft proposal

March 7 – Full proposal submitted to ARENA

Late April – Consideration by the ARENA Advisory Panel

We look forward to a positive outcome and will keep you informed as we progress to the next stage.

Feedback from our supporters

Our list of supporters has steadily grown by the day. Over 50 leading Australian universities, government departments and businesses have now committed their support to the application and proposed activities.

A sample of the feedback from our supporters is below, and a full list of supporters may be found on the [iHub website](#).

“The Innovation Hub for Affordable Heating and Cooling will facilitate the HVAC&R industry’s transition to a low-emissions future, stimulate jobs growth, and showcase HVAC innovations in buildings.”

Robert Saidman, Affil.AIRAH – ARUP

“The knowledge set that iHub could deliver to healthcare and hospitals is significant.”

Michaele Campbell – Children’s Health Queensland

“It will provide virtual and physical spaces where a community of industry innovators, designers, and educators can easily access knowledge and research infrastructure to incubate ideas and reshape industry practice to the needs of the 21st century.”

Adam Stingmore – Standards Australia

“We look forward to supporting the iHub initiative and working with the various activities to reshape our industry for a better and brighter future.”

Peter Goggin – SmartGrid Partners

“We strongly support this grant application, as our organisation believes the HVAC industry is key to ensuring a healthy, resilient and positive built environment, and see the iHub as a significant step forward to address the transition to a low-emissions future.”

Jorge Chapa – Green Building Council of Australia

“iHub will provide the essential infrastructure to enable participants to engage in R&D and develop and commercialise their IP.”

Stefan Brey – TAPHCORE

“The iHub project presents an ideal industry engagement tool for developing concepts and solutions that will deliver tangible benefits for the industry.”

Nic Burt – Facilities Management Association

“The iHub is an enabler in Australia transitioning to a low-emissions future.”

Derek Munn, M.AIRAH – CSR Building Products

“iHub will be a significant step forward to address the transition to a low-emissions future.”

Don Sands – Synengco

“We look forward to supporting the iHub initiative and working with the various activities to reshape our industry for a better and brighter future.”

Bjarne Olesen - ASHRAE

“We look forward to supporting this iHub initiative and, more generally, being part of innovations to improve our industry.”

Andy Dunne – NABERS

“AERIS sees iHub as a significant step forward to address the transition to a low-emissions future.”

Scott Gregson – AERIS Environmental



iHub – Living Laboratory/Green Proving Ground: Focus on solving problems

Green proving grounds



Living laboratory accelerators

What is the problem?

New technology and processes can enable a step change in emissions reduction. The iHub HVAC&R Innovator workshop demonstrated that many of these technologies already exist; however, the speed of market adoption is too slow to achieve a step change in the industry.

Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) currently focus on a single rating point for HVAC&R equipment. This single rating point is inadequate to demonstrate the seasonal energy efficiency to a consumer. However, a Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio (SEER) rating will not be adopted in Australia for some years. In contrast to "minimum" performance, iHub aims to showcase the "best-in-class" technology.

Industry participants are seeking platforms that enable them to demonstrate the benefits of their products in real-world environments, so they can break down the real and perceived barriers to technology uptake.

These barriers include:

- Fear of adopting/implementing unproven technology
- Unrealistic calculation of risk and cost of failure
- Anecdotal evidence used to justify decision making
- Split incentives driving least cost/least effort mentality
- Poor access to credible, verifiable, peer-reviewed information that demonstrates positives and negatives
- Perception of "greenwashing" leading to "green elephants".

The solution

The Living Lab/Green Proving Ground allows for stakeholders – owners, suppliers, users and researchers – to participate, collaborate, co-create and reflect on HVAC&R improvements and alternative solutions.

Interested in being a founding member of iHub? Please contact Tony Gleeson, M.AIRAH at tony.gleeson@airah.org.au or Dr Stephen White, F.AIRAH at Stephen.D.White@csiro.au.

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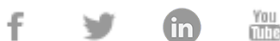
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