



## Stawell Underground Physics Laboratory receives big boost from federal government

The Stawell Underground Physics laboratory (SUPL) received a major funding boost with the announcement of \$1.75 million from the National Stronger Regions Fund.

SUPL will host SABRE – the first ever direct-detection dark matter experiment in Australia. The scientific effort for SUPL includes the Universities of Adelaide, Melbourne, Swinburne, and ANU; the key scientific organisation ANSTO, as well as international partners Princeton University and the Italian National Institute of Nuclear Physics (INFN).

The lab has also attracted the attention of scientists from the United Kingdom who have recently expressed interest in a further new dark matter experiment being hosted at SUPL.

Northern Grampians Shire Council Mayor Emerson said the announcement of further funding brings the town of Stawell one step closer to being the home of a Nobel Prize-winning project. *“A great deal of hard work has gone into making this project a reality. It’s a very exciting time for all involved.”*

Project leader Professor Elisabetta Barberio says *“This project has been supported by Australia right from the very beginning. Not only will SUPL place us firmly on the world stage in regard to fundamental scientific research, but it will strengthen bilateral relations between Italy and Australia. The impact that SUPL will create is immeasurable.”*

The effects of SUPL will be not only be on the scientific front. In fact, a recent study from the Office of the Chief Scientist reported that *“The total direct and flow on impact of the advanced physical and mathematical sciences sector amounts to over 22% of Australian economic activity, or about \$292 billion per year.”*<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.chiefscientist.gov.au/2015/03/report-the-importance-of-advanced-physical-and-mathematical-sciences-to-the-australian-economy-2/>

### About CoEPP

The ARC Centre of Excellence for Particle Physics at the Terascale (CoEPP) is a collaborative research venture between the Universities of Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney and Monash. Our research looks at some of the fundamental questions in science and our scientists are foundation members of the ATLAS experiment at the Large Hadron Collider at CERN.

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