



Media Release

The Hon Ian Macfarlane, MP

8 December 2006

\$1.6 MILLION TO TAKE INNOVATIVE BATTERY CHARGER TO MARKET

Australian Industry Minister Ian Macfarlane today announced government assistance for an intelligent device that automatically charges car batteries, with no input from the motorist.

Redarc Technologies Pty Ltd, of Lonsdale, is one of three South Australian companies sharing in more than \$2 million to commercialise their products through the latest round of *Commercial Ready* funding.

Mr Macfarlane said the project involved developing a suite of smart battery chargers that will automatically identify and charge automotive batteries.

"Sophisticated electronics will enable potentially dangerous faults in batteries to be identified and managed, not only improving safety but also prolonging the battery's life, which will have environmental benefits," Mr Macfarlane said.

"If 10 per cent of the 500,000 batteries sold annually had their lifecycle extended by a year, 1500 tonnes of slag, a by-product of recycling lead, won't go into Australian landfills every year."

[Contact: Redarc Technologies, Mr A Kittel 08 8186 5633]

Other South Australian companies awarded *Commercial Ready* funding include:

- **EVRsafe Marine Technologies Pty Ltd, of Adelaide** - \$249,582 to commercialise EVRsafe, an innovative gas-detection sensor device installed in the hull of pleasure craft. It will simultaneously detect multiple toxic gases, alert crew and passengers, isolate the cause of the problem and provide solutions on how to rectify the danger. [Contact: S Faulkhead 0407 984 900].
- **Zipbolt Pty Ltd, of Woodville West** - \$87,531 to develop its UT Zipbolt range of fasteners for the woodworking and cabinet-making industries. It will fasten to a 90-degree butt joint, 180-degree side-to-side joint and any angle and half-metre joints, providing the industries with a total joint solution. [Contact: Mr M Pilja 0419 829 445].

A full list of the latest innovation grants can be found at www.ausindustry.gov.au or by phoning 13 28 46.