



## Overview for the NACCQ Executive

Andy Williamson

The CITRUS Centre for IT Research is a national centre for applied information and communications technology (ICT) research. The national centre and first research hub is to be based at UNITEC Waitakere quickly followed by a second research hub at Otago Polytechnic and a national virtual network of researchers. CITRUS intends to make a significant contribution to New Zealand's economic and social well-being through the successful transfer of knowledge and applied research in the field of ICT. CITRUS is about building New Zealand's ICT capability, that involves business and the community in applied research that will successfully sustain New Zealand's economic growth. It will provide applied research opportunities for community and business (particularly SMEs) in Waitakere City and throughout New Zealand through student projects and a network of emerging and experienced researchers. Waitakere City offers significant synergies for the CITRUS project, including the personal support of Mayor Bob Harvey, relationships with business development agencies and business incubation facilities and a recognition that CITRUS will directly contribute to the city's technology vision.

The CITRUS vision is one of applied ICT research adding real value to regional economies and communities and is based on a model of innovation in applied research leading to commercialisation. The Centre will be operated by UNITEC's School of Computing and IT and Otago Polytechnic as lead partners on behalf of the NACCQ. The proposal for a national centre is endorsed by the Association of Polytechnics of New Zealand (APNZ) and enjoys the support of Waitakere City Council.

### Operating Model

CITRUS introduces a national collaborative framework that will provide mentorship, networking and support to ensure that polytechnic-based research in ICT is focused and reaching its full potential in the same way that the NACCQ has brought together academic development, staff development and collaboration over the last 14 years. The dynamic field of ICT research means that intellectual property issues pose difficulties for many researchers who lack the commercial experience and resources, CITRUS will as part of its mandate develop policies and expertise in the





effective management of intellectual property and will actively work with local research clusters to promote the best results for stakeholders. This leads directly to a significant role of CITRUS, which is to facilitate the incubation and commercialisation of research projects. With CITRUS acting as a co-ordinated national centre, regionally-based and inter-institutional research clusters can be created, managed and resourced so that CITRUS:

- Builds a community of ICT researchers (across-the-board)
- Increases financial support for research activities (targeted)
- Increases the critical mass of new researchers (new directions)
- Develops and supports research centres and clusters (seeks excellence)
- Develops formal research linkages with other institutions (outreach)
- Leverages localised partnerships with industry, community and iwi (inclusive)

## Realising the Vision

The CITRUS proposal for Centres of Research Excellence (CoRE) funding received overwhelmingly positive feedback that praised not only the approach but also the potential of such a project. UNITEC has offered to fund the development of a national centre and first research cluster, to be based at UNITEC's Waitakere Campus. This centre will be used as a model to develop the operational framework for future clusters and will also co-ordinate the building of a virtual national research and collaboration framework.

Once the CITRUS Waitakere Centre becomes operational, it is envisaged that a duplicate centre will then be created at Otago Polytechnic in Dunedin, again this is expected to be funded locally. A key function of CITRUS is to stimulate, support and coordinate research nationally and this will be achieved through the development of a virtual research network.

It is not envisaged that any funding is required from the NACCQ at this stage since UNITEC and Otago Polytechnic are willing to underwrite the start up costs for the project. It is proposed that the core development team for this project will consist of:

Andy Williamson, NACCQ Executive  
Samuel Mann, Otago Polytechnic and NACCQ AQS Working Group  
Alison Young, UNITEC  
Tony Clear, AUT

**This vision is still new and unfolding, I would like the endorsement of the NACCQ Executive to continue to develop the strategic, operational and managerial frameworks required to make CITRUS a reality with an aim to launch the project at the NACCQ conference in July.**

Andy Williamson  
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