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Australia allocates $393 M to Nanotechnology & Genomics

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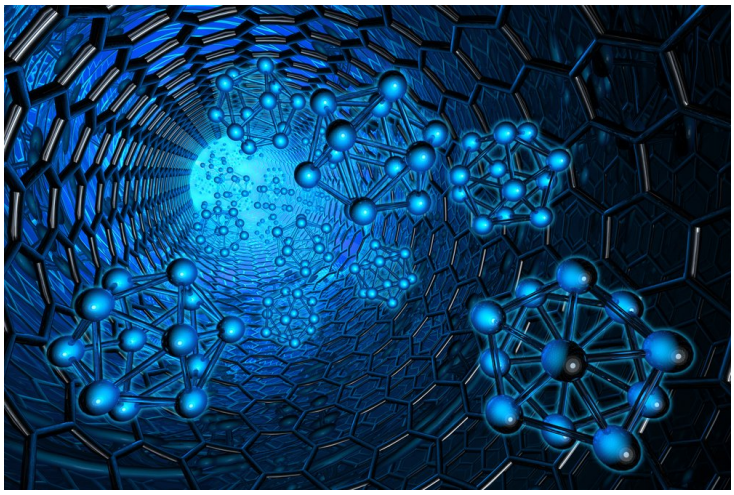

After recommendations by an expert group led by the chief scientist, Alan Finkel, the federal government in Australia released its response and allocated funding to its research prioritites.

The plan was submitted to the government in February 2017 but was allocated an additional $393m over five years – or $1.9bn over 12 years – in the 2018 budget recently.

Nanotechnology, genomics and remote ocean sensors to improve the health of the Great Barrier Reef are among the projects that will benefit from $393m over five years in new federal research funding.

New funding announced in the current round includes grants over the forward estimates of:

- $36m to the Australian National Fabrication Facility for nanotechnology manufacturing research
- $22m for marine observation systems used by international marine and climate science communities, as well as $31m for the research vessel *RV Investigator* to operate for an extra 120 days at sea
- $14m for microscopy and microanalysis equipment for applications including health and biomedical research
- $48m for Bioplatforms Australia's work in the field of gene sequencing

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The program also includes "expansion of the southern hemisphere's unique nuclear capabilities to drive world-leading advances in biotechnology, agricultural, chemical and material sciences".

The government estimates the investment will create about 500 new jobs over the next 10 years, including for science,

technology, engineering and maths graduates.