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Media Release

Wednesday April 28th, 2010 – Today, the Technical Textiles & Nonwoven Association (TTNA) released an engagement proposal for its bid to develop the Australian Fibre & Textile Environmental and Recycling Cooperative Research Centre (AFTER-CRC).

Responding to intensified interest in the reuse, reclamation and regeneration of fibrous material, the TTNA is seeking engagement from manufactures, retailers and research and education institutions for the 2010 CRC Program selection round.

Kerryn Caulfield, Executive Manager of the TTNA says: “While fibrous inputs are the TCF industry’s greatest overhead, (approx) one million tonnes of fibrous waste are buried in Australian landfills every year. Fibrous waste is an unrealised source of valuable raw materials that can be reclaimed for further use by developing frontier technology.” Ms Caulfield believes that the proposed CRC will provide interested companies with head start access to a new industry and an opportunity to exploit the commercial opportunities resulting from the centres’ activities. “Who would have thought thirty years ago that fortunes would be made from recycling goods such as paper and tyres? “

Satisfying the triple bottom line requirements of business in enlightened times, the centre will also focus on developing technology for waste mitigation in manufacture and solutions for product stewardship.

The Cooperative Research Centres (CRCs) program is a Commonwealth Government initiative that seeks to deliver significant economic, environmental and social benefits to Australia by supporting research partnerships that pursue solutions to challenges that are innovative, of high impact and capable of being effectively deployed by the end-users. In announcing the 13th CRC round on the 16th December 2009, Senator Kim Carr, the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research said that the program aims were to continue to support innovative research that relies on cross-disciplinary and collaborative approaches, to drive research solutions to the major challenges facing Australians today. Government support is won by applicants only after a multifaceted competitive process. Details on the process and the proposed research platforms can be found in the engagement proposal on the TTNA website.

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