‘The Chemicals and Plastics (C&P) Innovation Network and Training Program’ is led by Monash University and the Plastics and Chemicals Industries Association (PACIA) and underpinned by support from the Victorian Government and 20 industry members that are a combination of multinationals and SMEs. There are 17 industry partner driven PhD innovation projects, as well as an internship with industry. The PhD researchers also undertake significant additional training jointly delivered in partnership with industry on technical and business topics. The C&P Network has also combined events with industry including training, site visits, networking events and innovation showcases.

Leading Edge Innovation
• Industry-focused projects.
• Future research leaders and captains of the chemicals and plastics industry.

Interdisciplinary Program
• Joint training on technical and business topics with industry.
• Combine capabilities across Science and Engineering.

Collaboration with Industry
• Internship with the industry partner’s company.

Networking with Industry
• Site visits, networking events and innovation showcases.

Benefits to Industry
The program cultivates knowledge exchange on innovation (training, education, up-skilling of staff, recruitment of new talent); collaboration on innovation best practice and relationships with the R&D sector (including demo projects with Monash University); and new market opportunities through innovation (new IP for products or processes) for increasing revenue and job creation.

Apart from licence options on all projects for the companies to commercialise the new IP for products or processes, the industry partner as part of the network attend relevant training modules and networking events (B2B).
Mission statement: To create a framework for transformative growth in the Australian C&P industry by cultivating global innovation best practice and leveraging top Australian talent for a profitable and sustainable future (economic prosperity, productivity and employment).

Benefits to Monash

Research collaborations with industry on industry relevant projects. Key examples of deeper partnerships with Monash University arising through participation in this program include: the 3M pitching event, the PerkinElmer Flagship Facility at Monash (Fortune 500 multinational – ranked 429 out of the 500), and Axieo, an Australian owned SME on an international growth trajectory, has established the Axieo Centre for Innovation at Monash.

C&P Innovation Network members

Contact

Co-Director
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Karen is Head of Department, Chemical Engineering. She has spent five years in the US pharmaceutical industry, developing manufacturing processes for new drugs, before joining Monash University in 2006. Her research interests are in drug delivery via powders, granules and tablets.

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Co-Director
Associate Professor Tony Patti
Tony is a chemist and member of academic staff of the School of Chemistry, Monash University. He has managed several large research projects involving government and industry partners and continues to work with industry partners in areas of sustainable chemistry, utilization of biomass for chemical feedstocks and soil science.

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Developing air purification technology

Obtaining value add uses from coffee bean waste

Interdisciplinary research

PhD research on industry focused project (Engineering and Science)

- Technical and business skills
  - Training activities delivered with industry
    - Project Management
    - IP and confidentiality
    - Chemical Business Env.
    - Leadership development
  - Serial Innovator Program
  - Optional training topics

- Transferable skills
  - Occupational Health
  - Entrepreneurship
  - Financial Statements
  - Career Development
  - Understanding Scale-up
  - Lean Six Sigma

- Industry site visits (>3)
- Seminars (>3) – Networking with industry
- Innovation showcase (3) – Networking with industry
- Internship with industry (usually related to PhD topic)

PhD research on industry focused project and training program

High quality recruitment pool
Industry-academia collaboration & participation
Access to specialist R&D capability & innovation
Showcasing Australian capability to the world
Industrial training and best practice

Graduate Research Interdisciplinary Program – promotes transferable skills development and industry engagement