

# SUPPORTING TOP SCIENTIFIC TALENT

## OVERVIEW

- The Government is working to keep and attract top scientific minds to New Zealand, with two new programmes announced in the 2010 Budget.

## ATTRACTING SCIENCE ENTREPRENEURS

- The Government wants to attract top entrepreneurial scientists.
- \$9 million in funding over three years, starting from 2011/12, has been set aside for this.
- The aim is to build expertise in New Zealand around how we can extract greater value from the knowledge in our publicly funded research organisations.
- This combination will help more innovative, R&D-driven companies emerge.
- This programme will start in 2011. More information about this scheme will be announced in the near future.

# SUPPORTING TOP SCIENTIFIC TALENT

## THE RUTHERFORD DISCOVERY FELLOWSHIPS

- Will support New Zealand's top emerging scientists to help them establish careers here, providing them with a substantial salary and research costs.
  - Each year ten early-career scientists will receive a five year fellowship of up to \$200,000 a year.
  - The Government is investing \$25 million over four years in the Fellowships, starting with \$2 million in 2010/2011.
  - Funding will rise to more than \$9 million a year by 2015/16, supporting 50 fellows at any one time.
  - The Fellowships address a gap in support for scientists at the early-to-mid stage of their careers, from three to 10 years after they complete a doctorate.
  - There will be two tiers of Fellowship. Details on the individual value of the Fellowships at each tier, and the criteria and process for applying for them, will be confirmed shortly.
- A review highlighted this is the career stage when scientists have most difficulty gaining support and when there is the most international competition for scientists.
  - The Fellowships are competitive with overseas schemes and will help keep top emerging New Zealand scientists here and attract them back from overseas.
  - The Rutherford Discovery Fellowships are part of a suite of prestigious programmes under the Royal Society of New Zealand's Rutherford Foundation. The Society will administer the programme.
  - The funding will be a mixture of new investment and funding reprioritised from the closure of the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology's Postdoctoral Fellowships.