



An Australian Government Initiative



RDA GOLD COAST

e-Bulletin

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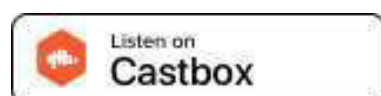
Local people creating local opportunities

Latest podcast

Luis De Jesus, Mexx Engineering

Gold Coast company at the forefront of a new 'Industry 4.0' robotics & automation era

 Listen on our website



Robotics engineer and entrepreneur Luis De Jesus firmly believes that the Gold Coast will be Australia's next tech hub.

His Arundel-based company Mexx Engineering - a manufacturer of robotics, autonomous vehicles and automated systems - is already one of the driving forces in a Gold Coast-led 'Industry 4.0' revolution, which is transforming industry processes and workplaces nationwide.



Robotics and automation are often feared to be taking jobs, but in this episode we discover that it's really about solving real-world problems, freeing up workers from repetitive, boring or dangerous tasks, and increasing business sustainability.

Tune in to hear from a passionate advocate of this 'beautiful field', with the potential to change the way your business (big or small) operates, or for students, spark an interest in a career pathway with exhilarating local opportunities.

Luis De Jesus, the founder and Director of Mexx Engineering Pty Ltd, has over 26 years of experience in engineering design, senior management and project management.

With over a decade of experience in designing automatic machines in Australia and Canada, Luis possesses in-depth knowledge of automation systems across many industries. He holds qualifications in electro-mechanical engineering (mechatronics) and is proficient in pneumatic, hydraulic, electrical and electronic systems, as well as manufacturing methods and rapid prototyping.

This project is delivering on the Australian Government's **Regional Investment Framework**, in the focus area of 'Investing in People' (targeted investment in skills, education and local leadership capacity) and 'Investing in Industries & Local Economies' (Supporting the conditions needed for regional industries to diversify and grow).



Southern Chamber of Commerce's Global Talent, Local Success Breakfast Event

Our CEO, Estella Rodighiero, delivered a keynote address at the Global Talent, Local Success Breakfast Event hosted by the Southern Gold Coast Chamber of Commerce on Thursday 19 April 2024.

During her presentation, she discussed the Gold Coast Emerging Biomedical Industry Study, which outlines a comprehensive 10-year growth strategy for the sector.

Estella highlighted key economic and employment insights, the project's framework, and emphasized the industry's strengths and opportunities. She also highlighted the world-class institutions within the industry, showcasing our Biomedical Industry Capability Guide.

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The 3G Network Shutdown

What you need to know

The decision to phase out 3G networks is driven by the growing demand for 4G and 5G technologies. This move is crucial to meet the increasing mobile data consumption and enable innovative services requiring high-bandwidth, low-latency networks.

To smoothly transition from 3G to 4G and 5G networks, stakeholders are encouraged to:

📱 **Review your devices:** Check if your mobile phones, tablets, and other connected devices are 4G or 5G compatible.

Stay informed: Telecommunications providers are reaching out to customers with key information about the shutdown, including timelines and what to expect. Paying close attention to communications from your provider is vital.

📱 **Plan upgrades:** If you or your constituents use 3G-only devices, now is the time to consider upgrading to ensure uninterrupted service.

Telstra is planning to shut down its 3G network in June 2024 and Optus in September 2024. For any newer devices (less than five-eight years old), it is likely that they are already compatible.

The **Regional Tech Hub** offers free and independent advice on the 3G shutdown. Whether you need clarity on the process, help with device upgrades, or have questions about maximizing your connectivity options post-3G, the Regional Tech Hub is here to assist.

Access their services:

Phone: 1300 081 029

Website: www.regionaltechhub.org.au



Round 4 Now Open!




Defence and Aerospace Industry Development Fund

Round 4 applications are now open for the **Defence and Aerospace Industry Development Fund**, a fund designed to help eligible small and medium enterprises (SMEs) acquire certification enabling them to participate in both new and existing supply chain opportunities, fostering their growth and prosperity and industry expansion.

Financial assistance from **\$5,000 (excluding GST)** to a maximum of **\$30,000 (excluding GST)** in **matched funding (up to 50 per cent funding)** will be awarded to approved applicants. Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander businesses may apply for up to 75 per cent funding.

 [Find out more](#)

Eligible applicants for the fund are:

-  Existing suppliers to the defence, aerospace and space supply chain; and
 -  Eligible SMEs with AUKUS Pillar II capabilities (undersea capabilities, quantum technologies, artificial intelligence and autonomy, advanced cyber, hypersonic and counter-hypersonic capabilities and electronic warfare)
-  Applications will close at midnight on Monday, 10 June 2024.






Have your say!

Migration Strategy Reformed Points Test

The **Australian Government's Migration Strategy** (the Migration Strategy) was released on 11 December 2023 and outlines a new vision for Australia's migration system, with a policy roadmap containing 8 key actions and over 25 new policy commitments and areas for future reform.

One of the key areas of future reform outlined in the Migration Strategy is to explore 'a reformed points test to better identify migrants who will drive Australia's long-term prosperity'.

 The Australian Department of Home Affairs will be conducting a review of the points test system and invites submissions until 5.00pm (AEST) on Friday 24 May 2024.

 [Find out more](#)

 [Discussion Paper](#)






Have your say! Australia's automated vehicle safety reforms

Automated vehicle technology is advancing rapidly and has the potential to be a real game changer for road transport, by supporting safer, more efficient road travel.

However, current laws do not allow for the general use of automated vehicles.

The National Transport Commission and AusGov Infrastructure have been working alongside state and territory governments to create a set of rules for automated vehicle safety.

A consultation paper has been made to help understand the proposed regulatory framework and what's been done so far.

 Submissions can be made until 11 June 2024.

 [Find out more](#)



Meet RDA Gold Coast Deputy Chair

Dr. Chris Davis

Dr Chris Davis has been fortunate to experience an education and a career in pharmaceutical development and international business all while living on the beautiful Gold Coast. He now gives back to the community and industry that served him so well through his role as Deputy Chair, RDA Gold Coast, and Chairman, AusBiotech Ltd Qld Branch.

Chris obtained an honours degree and a PhD in synthetic medicinal chemistry from Griffith University's Institute for Glycomics on the Gold Coast. For 2 years he worked in a Gold Coast-based biotechnology start-up company developing patented anti-bacterial drug candidates he co-invented during his PhD. Following the trade sale of that company he worked for a Brisbane-based commercialisation company, seeking venture capital investment to enable the development of new drugs and vaccines, together with licensing of drug and vaccine technologies to biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies globally.

In 2009 he returned to Griffith University as General Manager of the Institute for Glycomics where he leads a group of professionals dedicated to the strategic and operational development of the Institute, covering domestic and international business strategy, technology commercialisation, fund raising across the philanthropic, government, industry and private sectors, and general Institute operations. The primary focus of the Institute is inventing, developing and translating its drug, vaccine and diagnostic technologies for health, social and economic benefit, locally and globally. In July 2024, Chris will take up a new role as General Manager of the newly established Institute for Biomedicine and Glycomics at Griffith University.



Boards

- Chairman, Ausbiotech Ltd QLD, Queensland Branch
- Deputy Chairman, RDA Gold Coast

About the RDA Gold Coast Committee

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Gold Coast is part of a national network of committees which are critical to the delivery of the Australian Government's Regional Investment Framework (RIF). The RIF is ensuring a more coordinated approach to regional development, underpinned by strong local engagement and on-the-ground knowledge.

RDA Gold Coast helps to drive economic growth, innovation and entrepreneurship in our region, by facilitating investment in community, industry and the environment. We coordinate across all levels of government, business sectors and the community to make these investments work better.



Nick Scott, Chair



Dr Chris Davis, Deputy Chair



David Zohar



Robyn Keenan



Lucy Ardern



Geoff Smith



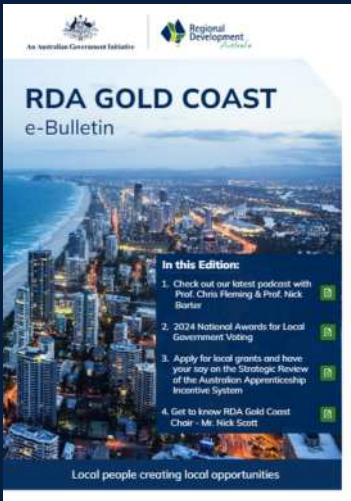
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Carl Bruhn

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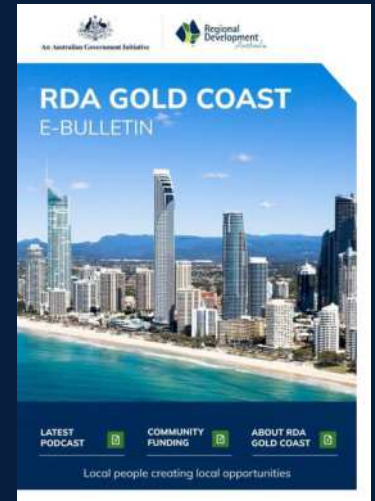
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