



**RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT  
TO FOSTER AUSTRALIAN - COST INTERACTIONS**

between the Australian Academy of Science, Canberra  
and the COST Office, Brussels

§1

**The Agreement**

This agreement establishes the basis for the continuation of reciprocal cooperation, in the mutual interest, of Australian and European scientists in COST Actions. Under COST guidelines, Australia would be regarded as a country with a reciprocal arrangement.

Reimbursements for any mutually agreed participation in a COST Action would comprise:

- (i) travel and subsistence expenses to and within Europe for Australian scientists; and
- (ii) travel and subsistence expenses to and within Australia for European scientists participating and collaborating in the same COST Action

in line with the principles of the COST financial rules and procedures for Short Term Scientific Missions under this Reciprocal Agreement (RSTSMs) of COST.

All RSTSMs must be for five days minimum and three months maximum duration.

Reimbursements for (i) above are met through the Australian contribution, administered by the Australian Academy of Science. Reimbursements for (ii) above are met by the COST Office.

§2

**Reciprocal Contributions**

Under the terms of this agreement, COST's contribution would be up to € 36,000 per annum from 1 July 2009 until 1 July 2014, subject to the availability of reciprocal financing from Australia each year. Australia's contribution would be up to \$ 54,000 per annum, with additional support provided to the Australian Academy of Science to cover administrative overheads.

The Australian Academy of Science would be contracted to take primary responsibility for managing Australia's involvement in COST, including making recommendations on particular applications, liaising directly with COST, and managing travel arrangements for Australian scientists travelling to Europe under COST Actions.

### §3

#### **RSTSM Financial Assistance**

The financial contribution provided by COST for a European scientist travelling to Australia, in 2009 values, would be a fixed grant not exceeding € 3,000 per visit, except through special justification. This would comprise travel expenses of up to €1,900 and a daily allowance of € 160 for accommodation and meals expenses, to a total not exceeding €3,000.

For Australian researchers travelling to Europe, the total grant in 2009 values would not exceed A\$5,000 per visit, covering a return airfare of up to A\$2,500 and daily living allowances. Daily living allowances, covering accommodation and meals are provided at the rate of A\$200 per day or a maximum of A\$2,500 per month, whichever is the smaller amount.

### §4

#### **Application procedure**

Participants in COST Actions involving official participations from Australia are eligible to draw on these funds. Applications for funding would be made by the scientists seeking funding, or by their employers. Applications for funding will be processed as follows:

- for participants from the COST countries wishing to travel to Australia the application will be submitted to the COST Office and a statement of support from the Chair of the Action will be required along with a work plan and budget breakdown as per Section 11 of the COST Vademecum; and
- for participants from Australia wishing to travel to Europe for COST Action meetings the application will be submitted to the Australian Academy of Science according to the procedures outlined on its web page.

From time to time priority areas may be agreed by Australia and COST under the auspices of the Australia – European Union Joint Science and Technology Cooperation Committee or at such other time as the parties may agree.

Applications would be considered independently by the COST Office and the Australian Academy of Science, in accordance with each party's financial rules and procedures. Until such time as priority areas or other criteria such as giving priority to first time applicants are agreed applications will be treated in order of receipt. The COST Office and the Australian Academy of Science will each form their own views as to the applications' suitability for funding, and accordingly approve or otherwise, consulting with each other in this process only as each party deems necessary.

Once an exchange visit is approved:

- (i) The COST Office would grant an amount following § 3 to the European scientist, for travel and subsistence expenses to and within Australia; and
- (ii) the Australian Academy of Science would grant an amount following § 3 to the Australian scientist, for travel and subsistence expenses to and within Europe.



§5

**Entry into force**

This agreement will enter into force 1 July 2009.

Canberra and Brussels, 30 June 2009

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'S D Meek' with a long horizontal line underneath.

Dr Sue D Meek  
Chief Executive  
for the Australian Academy of Science

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Martin Grabert' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Martin Grabert  
Director  
for the COST Office