

FLEET

ARC CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN
FUTURE LOW-ENERGY
ELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGIES



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FUTURE LOW-ENERGY
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New liquid-metal technique used for a wide range of applications from flexible circuits to filtration devices.

Image courtesy of Steve Morton.

PhD student Marina Castelli observes topological materials at the atomic-scale using scanning tunnelling microscope.

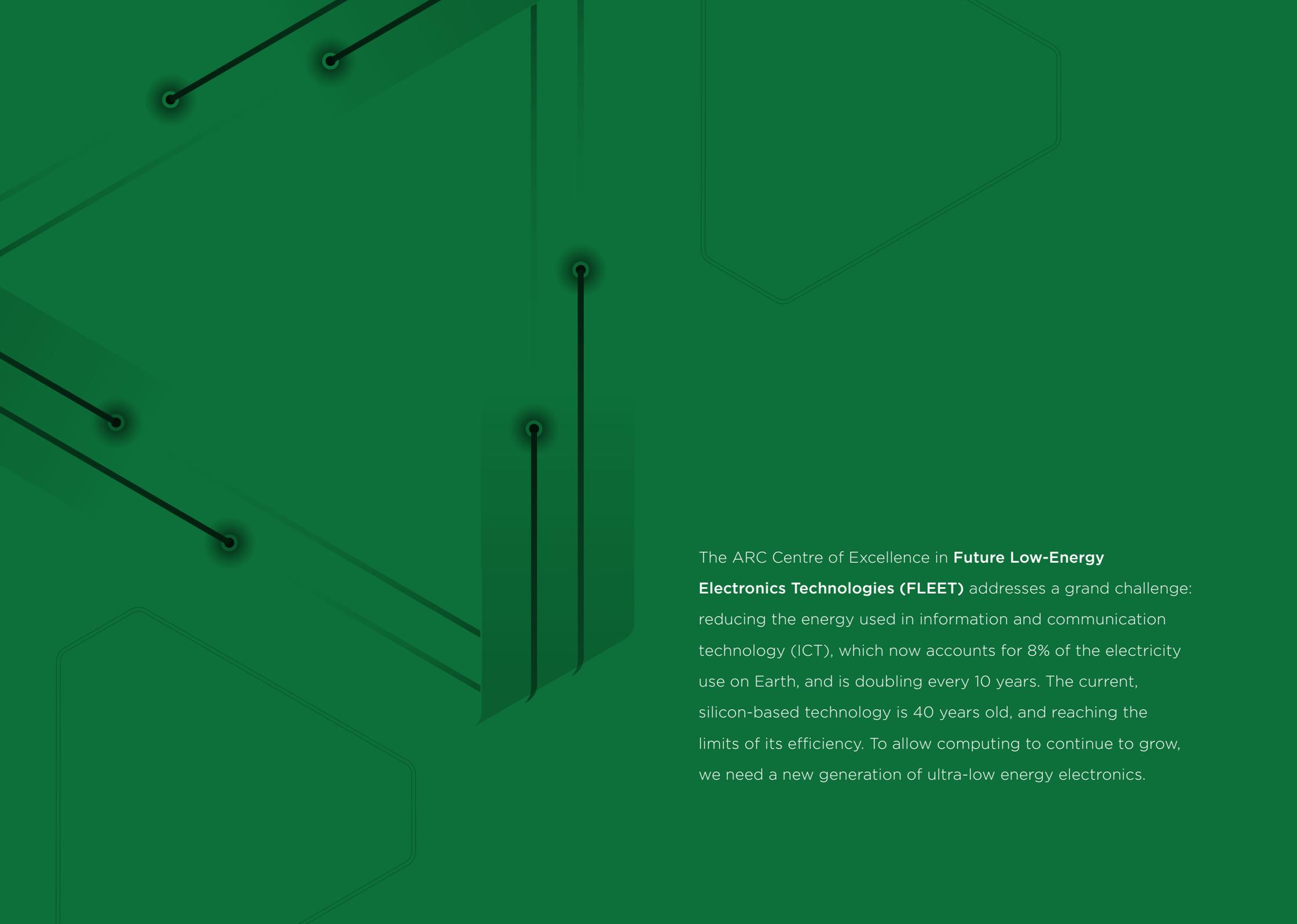
Image courtesy of Steve Morton.

Research Fellow Karina Hudson uses nanodevices to study spin-orbit interaction in topological insulators.

Image courtesy of Grant Turner.

PhD student Fei Hou studies nano-scale properties of functional oxide materials.

Image courtesy of Grant Turner.

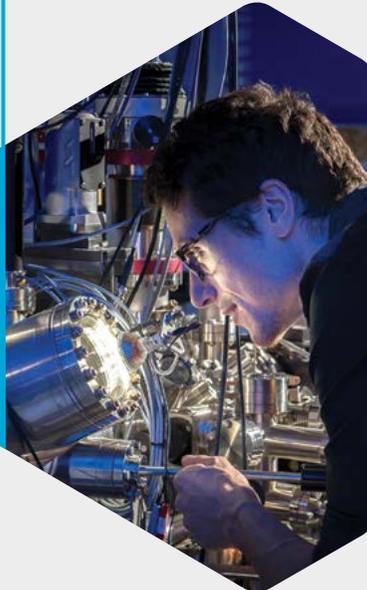
The background is a solid dark green color. It features several white geometric shapes and lines. In the top left, there are two parallel lines extending from the left edge towards the right, each ending in a small white circle. In the bottom left, there is a large white hexagonal shape with a smaller white hexagon inside it. In the top right, there is a white pentagonal shape. In the center, there are several white lines of varying lengths and orientations, some ending in small white circles. The overall aesthetic is clean and technical.

The ARC Centre of Excellence in **Future Low-Energy Electronics Technologies (FLEET)** addresses a grand challenge: reducing the energy used in information and communication technology (ICT), which now accounts for 8% of the electricity use on Earth, and is doubling every 10 years. The current, silicon-based technology is 40 years old, and reaching the limits of its efficiency. To allow computing to continue to grow, we need a new generation of ultra-low energy electronics.

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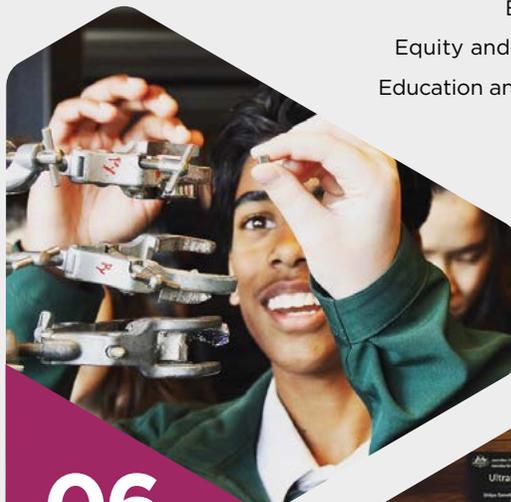
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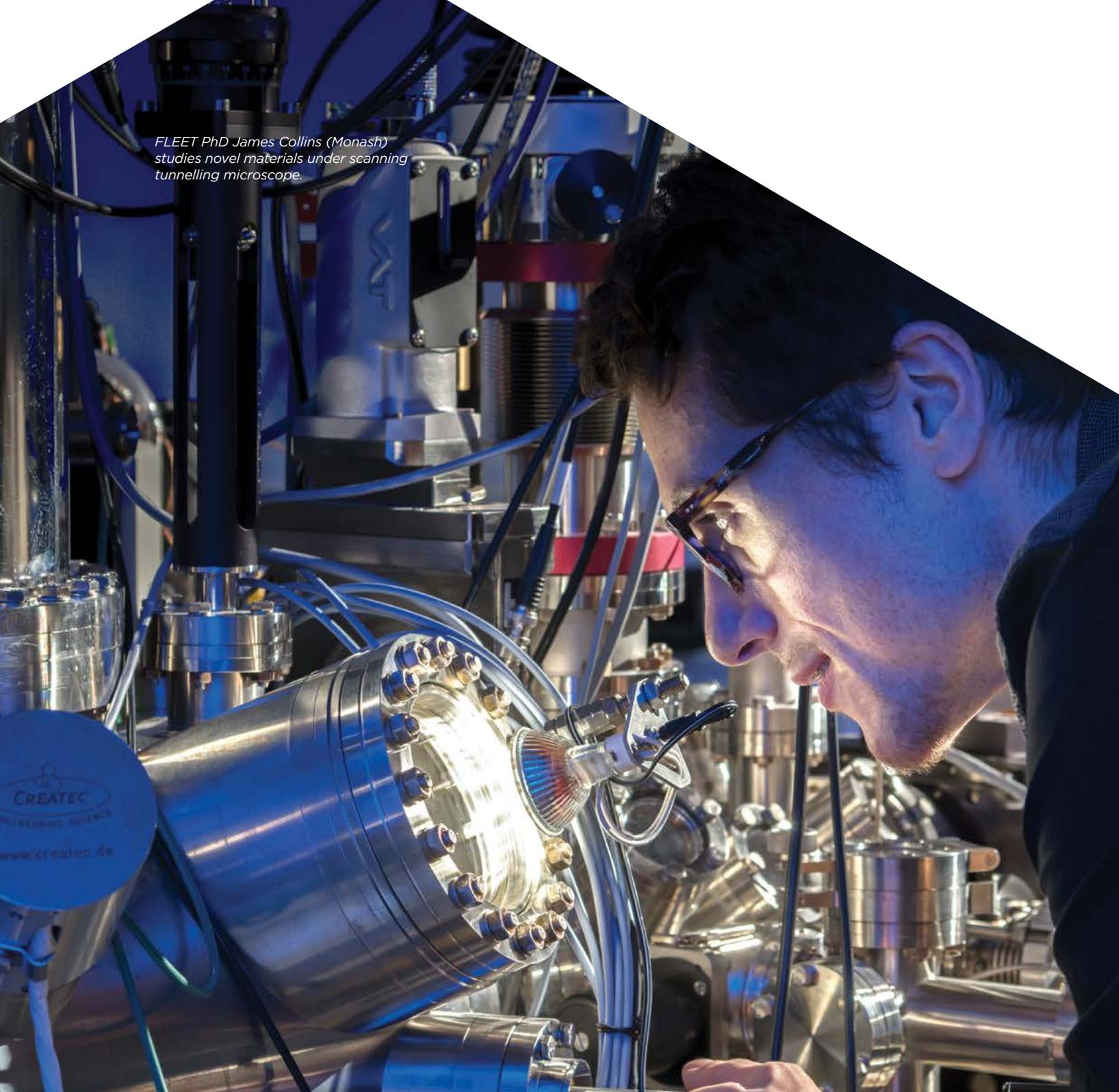


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A man wearing safety glasses is focused on a complex piece of scientific equipment, a scanning tunneling microscope. The scene is lit with a cool blue light, highlighting the metallic surfaces and intricate wiring of the machine. The man's profile is visible as he looks intently at the device. The background is filled with more laboratory equipment, creating a sense of a high-tech research environment.

*FLEET PhD James Collins (Monash)
studies novel materials under scanning
tunnelling microscope.*

01 INTRO

FLEET will develop a new generation of ultra-low energy electronics.

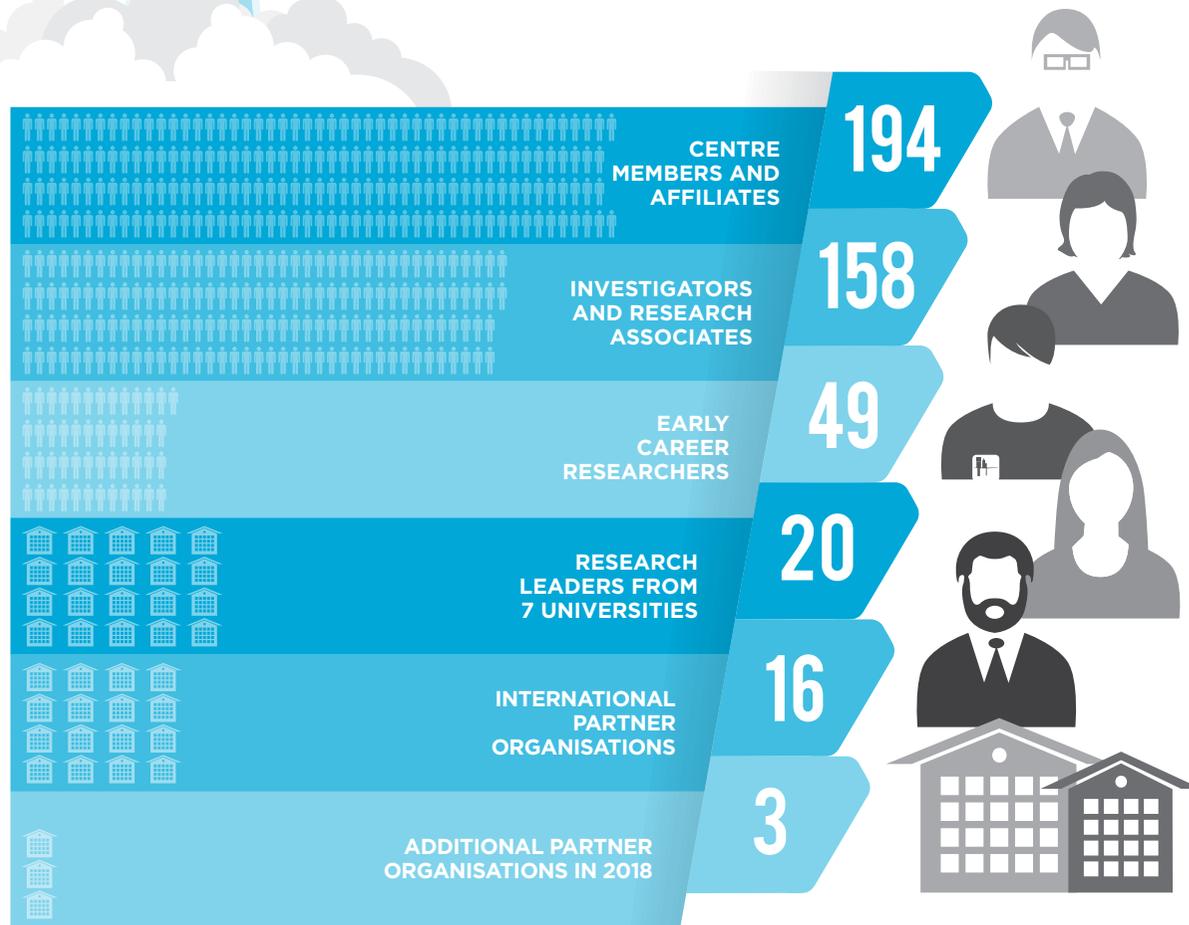
2017-2023
RESEARCH FUNDING



IN-KIND COMMITMENT
BY COLLABORATING
ORGANISATIONS

\$26.2
MILLION

FLEET LAUNCHES
12 JUNE 2018



RESEARCH MOMENTUM

2018 marked the first full year of research operations at FLEET, and the Centre's research efforts were well underway by early in the year: most research fellows were on board and key new laboratory capabilities had been installed.

Although much of the Centre was still in a development phase, FLEET researchers rolled out impressive results that made a splash in the international scientific community, including:

- a new technique to rapidly synthesise a vast array of high-quality metal oxides in two-dimensional (2D) form
- the first demonstration of electrical switching of a topological insulator
- demonstration of a new 2D material platform for intense nano-confined light.

A large part of the mission of a Centre of Excellence is to build capacity in Australia for cutting-edge science where none existed before. It is hard work and cannot happen overnight, but building this capacity provides the foundation for future breakthrough research. The foresight of the Australian Research Council (ARC) and Australian Government in funding Centres of Excellence for seven-year terms gives researchers the time and resources to build new efforts from the ground up.

The timeliness of FLEET's research mission – to reduce the energy used in information and communication technology (ICT) – was reinforced in an important review published in *Nature Electronics*. The article offered evidence that the silicon CMOS industry that supports our current computing technology will soon halt its four



FLEET's sound management team is encouraging scientific productivity in an inclusive way from a diversity of members.

Professor Andrew Peele

Director, Australian Synchrotron
FLEET Advisory Committee



decades of exponential technological gains (described by Moore's Law). Instead, as soon as 2020, we could see a steady-state phase marked by the commoditisation of silicon chips. In this new phase, the industry players will compete to make the same chips more cheaply, rather than to make new chips with faster, smaller and more energy-efficient transistors.

It remains to be seen whether this change will mark an inflection point in the energy consumption by the ICT sector, but that now seems nearly inevitable. The authors also made a strong case that industry-funded research and development (R&D) will not solve the energy crisis in ICT. They concluded that the sustainable future of the industry is now in the hands of government-funded basic research centres like FLEET.

The foundational science behind FLEET continues to receive important recognition. The 2019 Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics was awarded to Profs Charles Kane and Eugene Mele (University of

FLEET will develop:

- New systems in which electricity flows with minimal resistance and therefore minimal wasted dissipation of energy
- Devices in which this 'dissipationless' electric current can be switched on and off at will.

These devices will enable revolutionary new electronics and communications technologies with ultra-low energy consumption.

Pennsylvania). This is well-deserved recognition for their discovery of topological insulators of the type FLEET is now exploiting to make electronic devices.

The science underpinning FLEET's work in exciton superfluids also seems close to a breakthrough moment. Researchers in Prof Emmanuel Tutuc's group at the University of Texas, in collaboration with FLEET Partner Investigator Allan MacDonald, in 2018 reported the first hints of an excitonic superfluid in double bilayer graphene, a system first proposed by FLEET Partner Investigator David Neilson and CI Prof Alex Hamilton. More work is needed – and FLEET is rapidly pursuing similar approaches – but the results point to an exciting time ahead in this field.

FLEET'S GRAND CHALLENGE: MINIMISING ICT ENERGY TO ENABLE FUTURE COMPUTING

FLEET addresses a grand challenge: reducing the energy used in information and communication technology (ICT), which already accounts for up to 8% of the electricity use on Earth and is doubling every 10 years.

The current, silicon-based technology (CMOS) is 40 years old, and reaching the limits of its efficiency.

Fundamental physics indicates that computing efficiency could still be thousands of times better, which inspires us to search for a replacement technology.

Using computers consumes energy. Lots of energy.

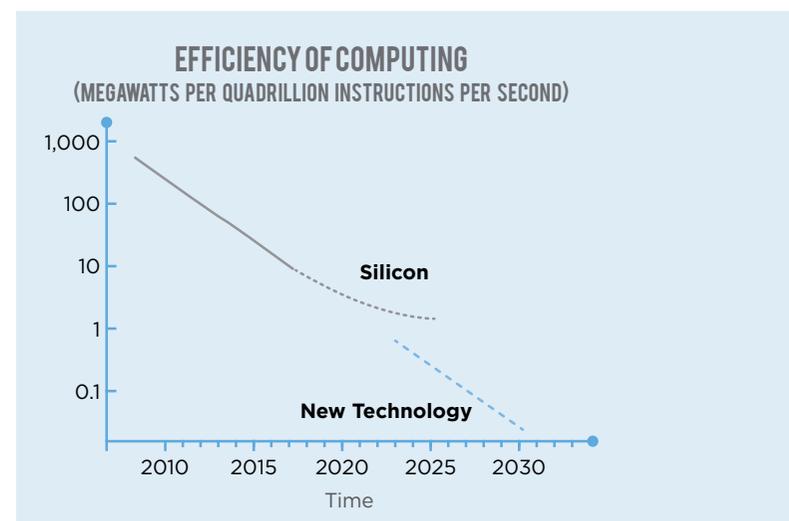
Computers work by activating microscopic switches called transistors – a couple of billion of them are packed into each small computer chip.

And each time one of those transistors switches, a tiny amount of energy is burnt.

Consider the billions of transistors in each small computer chip, each switching billions of times a second, and multiply that by hundreds of servers in hundreds of thousands of factory-sized data centres.

For many years, the growing energy demands of computing were kept in check by ever more efficient, and ever more compact computer chips – a trend related to Moore's Law, which observed that the size of transistors halved around every 18 months.

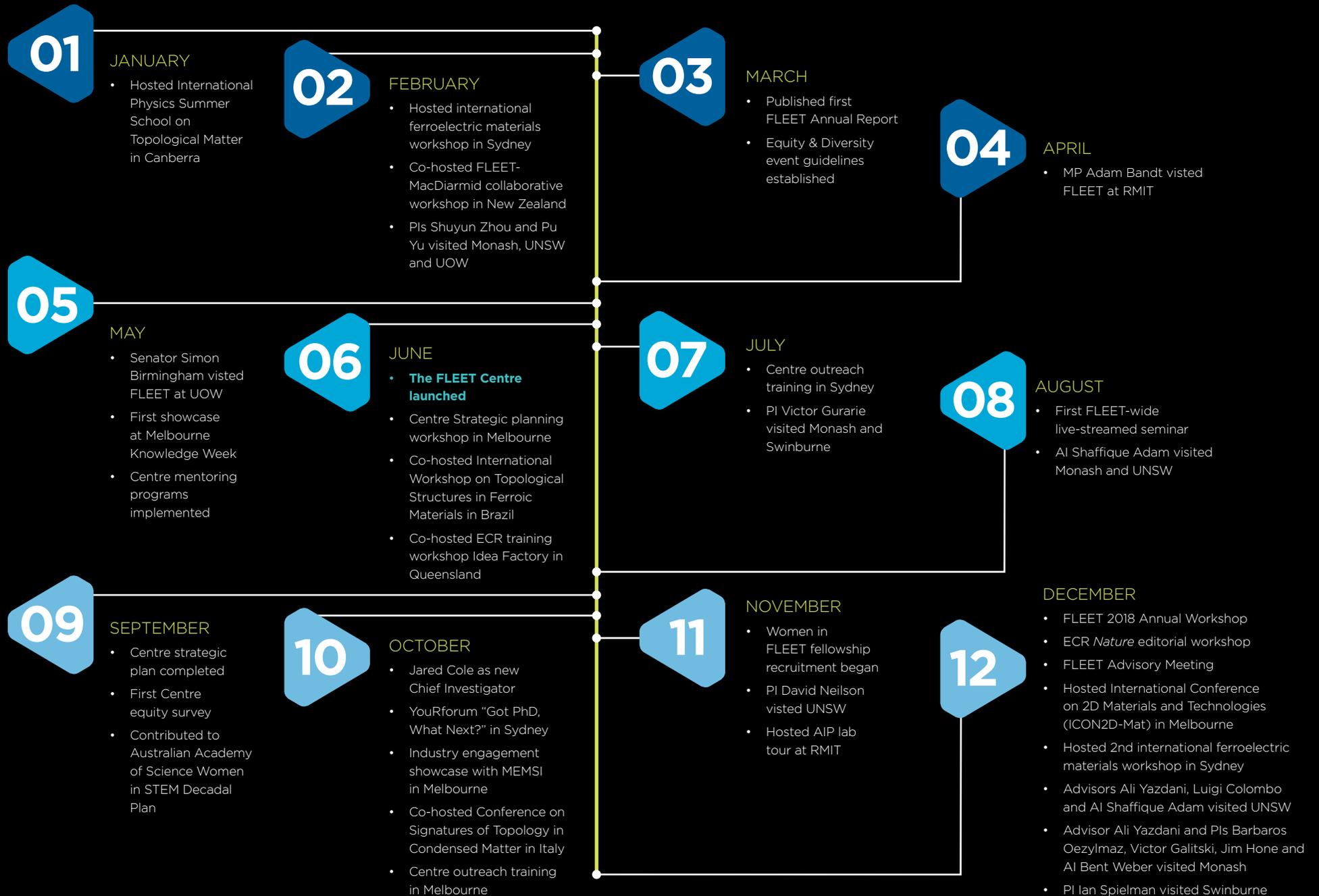
But Moore's Law is already winding down, and will probably be declared dead in the next decade. There are limited future efficiencies to be found in present technology.



FLEET will develop electronic devices that operate at ultra-low energy, enabling revolutionary new technologies to drive future electronics and computing, while meeting society's demand for reduced energy consumption.

DID YOU KNOW...

Every year, the demand for computation grows by 70%





HIGHLIGHT ACHIEVEMENTS

FEBRUARY

Dr Harley Scammell (UNSW) awarded Fulbright Scholarship to work at Harvard University

APRIL

A/Prof Qiaoliang Bao (Monash) awarded the Technology Ambassador Fellowship by Australian National Fabrication Facility – Melbourne Centre for Nanofabrication

JUNE

Centre Launch ([see p78](#))

AUGUST

Prof Kourosh Kalantar-zadeh (UNSW/RMIT) named an Australian Research Council (ARC) Laureate Fellow

OCTOBER

Prof Jared Cole (RMIT, shown left) promoted to FLEET CI and full professor

Three FLEET ECRs in ten-person team nominated by Australian Academy of Science for the 2019 Lindau Nobel meeting: Hareem Khan (RMIT), Dr Matt Reeves (UQ) and Dr Eli Estrecho (ANU)

NOVEMBER

Three members named in Clarivate highly-cited researchers: Prof Michael Fuhrer (Monash), Prof Kourosh Kalantar-zadeh (UNSW/RMIT) and A/Prof Qiaoliang Bao (Monash)

Yonatan Ashlea Alava awarded UNSW School of Physics Research Expo Poster Prize

Ali Zavabeti completed PhD with nine FLEET publications

DECEMBER

Honours student Bernard Field won Rodney Turner Prize for Best Honours Thesis in Physics and Astronomy and JJ McNeill Prize for Top Honours Student in Physics (Monash)

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

FLEET grew and strengthened throughout 2018, and now comprises 20 chief investigators, 21 partner investigators, 45 research fellows and more than 70 students.

CUTTING EDGE CAPABILITIES

FLEET continued to build new experimental capabilities: the toroidal ARPES analyser at the Australian Synchrotron saw its first experimental runs; and van der Waals heterostructures – stacks of atomically-thin materials – were assembled into devices at RMIT and Monash universities.

This development of cutting-edge laboratory capability continues into 2019: a quantum gas microscope capable of imaging individual atoms in cold-atom condensates is being developed at Swinburne; a suite of cryostats for electric and magnetic measurements at ultra-low temperatures and ultra-high magnetic fields is arriving soon at RMIT and Monash; and ultra-fast scanning tunnelling microscopy is being developed at Monash.

RESEARCH RESULTS

2018 was the first full year of FLEET operations, and the Centre's scientific outputs accelerated, with much to report:

- FLEET's topological materials team (Research theme 1) has made significant strides towards a topological transistor, demonstrating for the first time electric field-controlled switching of a material from topological insulator to conventional insulator.



The experiments on atomically-thin layers of Na_3Bi showed very large band gaps (400 meV and 100 meV respectively) in topological and conventional states. This indicates that room-temperature operation may be possible, and brings the major FLEET milestone of achieving topological switching at room temperature closer than originally expected (see case study p26).

- FLEET's exciton superfluid team (Research theme 2) demonstrated a new capability to measure exciton-polariton condensate formation with unprecedented time resolution in a single-shot mode. This work revealed the dynamics of individual condensate events for the first time; previously, individual results were 'hidden' in experiments that averaged many events (see p32).
- The effort to move exciton-polariton condensates to two-dimensional (2D) materials and higher temperatures is proceeding as a combined effort with the nano-device fabrication team, with progress in fabricating microcavities and integrating them with 2D materials.
- The nano-device fabrication team (Enabling technology B) also demonstrated an unprecedented new ability to confine strong and long-lived nanoscale light fields (plasmons) in the atomically-thin material MoO_3 , offering intriguing new possibilities for light-switched materials.
- FLEET's light-transformed materials theme (Research theme 3), a unique collaboration between theorists and experimentalists working both in condensates of ultra-cold atoms and solid-state 2D materials, is progressing in all fronts: a theoretical understanding of the curious phenomenon of 'negative mass' was developed (see p38); cold-atom condensates confined in 2D were shown to exhibit a quantum anomaly associated with symmetry breaking in the presence of strong interactions (see p36); and FLEET researchers carried out their first experiments to demonstrate engineering the states of electrons in 2D using ultra-fast laser pulses.
- Researchers in the atomically-thin materials theme (Enabling technology A) serendipitously discovered that In_2Se_3 harbours room-temperature ferroelectricity, making it only the second-known 2D ferroelectric.
- A process developed by FLEET to make 2D metal oxides on the surface of liquid metals was shown to be useful for making low-cost water filters (see p42). These types of discoveries show that the benefits of discovery-based research extend beyond the focused objectives of the Centre, and will have important impacts in a diverse range of fields.

NEW INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Establishing close and synergistic links with international partners is an important ingredient in FLEET's success. FLEET's partnership network expanded significantly in 2018:

- Profs Andrea Perali and David Neilson of the University of Camerino in Italy, long-time collaborators with FLEET Deputy Director Alex Hamilton, add critical expertise on the theory of exciton superfluids.
- FLEET's fruitful relationship with Tsinghua University in Beijing, China, expanded with the Centre welcoming Prof Shuyun Zhou (expert on the electronic structure of novel 2D materials) and Prof Pu Yu (expert on emergent phenomena at 2D interfaces of correlated electron systems).
- Prof Grzegorz Sek of Wroclaw University of Science and Technology in Poland, a specialist in novel epitaxial nanostructures for nanophotonics, optoelectronics and sensing, adds his expertise to the effort in exciton-polariton condensation in FLEET.
- Prof Hai-Qing Lin directs the Beijing Computational Science Research Center (CSRC) in China and connects FLEET to CSRC's large multidisciplinary effort in computational science and condensed matter research.

FLEET continues to explore additional fruitful partnerships: 2018 saw two joint workshops in Australia and New Zealand with the MacDiarmid Institute, New Zealand's premier materials science centre.

SCIENTIFIC LEADERSHIP

Beyond the scientific achievements, FLEET aims to change the culture of research in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields. While

some progress was achieved in 2018, the difficulty of achieving FLEET's goal of at least 30% representation of women across all levels of the Centre was clear.

Of particular concern was the fact that only 20% of research fellows hired were women. The rate was even worse for the many fellows who were appointed directly from existing roles at nodes – only 14% of these were women. This is further evidence of the typical pattern that sees the proportion of women falling at each succeeding career stage.

To boost our representation of women, FLEET has directed strategic funding to advertise two women-only fellowships across the Centre. These new, widely-advertised positions avoid the problem of highly-focused searches, which often find very few respondents. This is the first such initiative for a Centre funded by the Australian Research Council (ARC), and the response has been very high, with almost 70 applicants. Such interest suggests that we are indeed locating talent overlooked in previous, targeted searches.

Elsewhere, FLEET has received overwhelmingly positive feedback for its family-friendly conference policies. Many participants brought families to the Centre's two annual workshops, and the FLEET-organised International Conference on 2D Materials, all of which included free child care for participants. In 2018, FLEET developed an equity policy to apply to all events sponsored by FLEET, which will help spread inclusive policies well beyond the Centre.

FLEET continues to offer excellent training and mentorship opportunities for all its members. In 2018, FLEET organised a YouRforum workshop on career development, was a key participant in the ANU Summer School on Topological Matter, joined with the EQUUS



FLEET has made good progress in improving gender balance through enhancing systemic support for women and early career researchers.

Professor Cathy Foley

Chief Scientist, CSIRO
FLEET Advisory Committee



Centre (the ARC Centre of Excellence for Engineered Quantum Systems) to run the Idea Factory, and hosted a paper-writing masterclass by *Nature* editor Luke Fleet (no relation!).

Also critical to FLEET's mission is bringing an understanding of the challenges addressed by FLEET, and the new science FLEET is using, to students and the public at large.

FLEET's outreach activities in 2018 included more than 1,500 hours of activity by Centre personnel, reaching over 2,000 school students and over 11,000 members of the public.

The FLEET superconducting Mobius strip – demonstrating topology and dissipationless conduction in a mesmerising fashion – is a smash hit with everyone who sees it. It has now been duplicated, with the original going to Scienceworks museum, and new, upgraded versions now captivating audiences in Victoria and New South Wales ([see p76](#)).



FLEET Research Fellow Karina Hudson (UNSW) uses sensitive nanodevices to study spin-orbit interaction in topological insulators.

02 INNOVATE

FLEET is pursuing the following research themes to develop systems in which electrical current can flow with near-zero resistance:

- > Topological materials
- > Exciton superfluids
- > Light-transformed materials

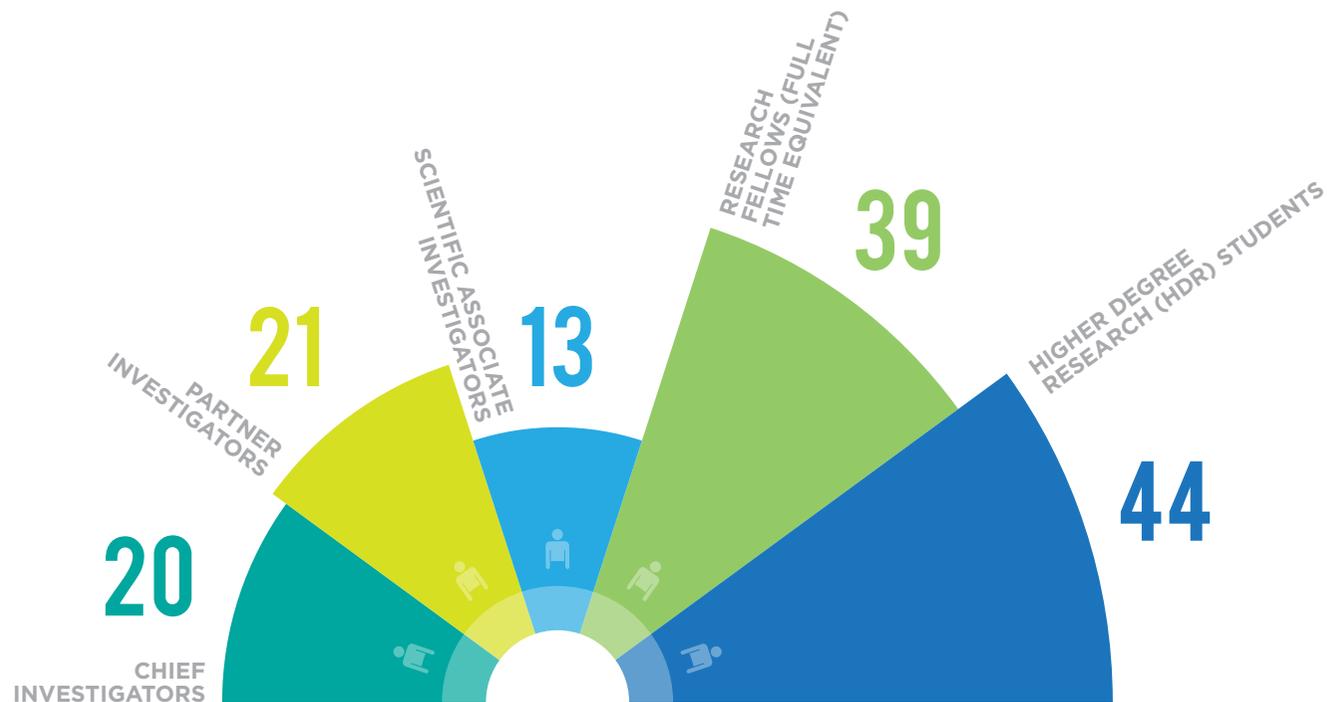
The above approaches are enabled by the following technologies:

- > Atomically-thin materials
- > Nanodevice fabrication

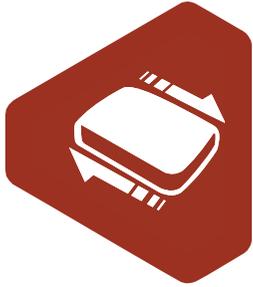
**ADDITIONAL INCOME
SECURED FOR FLEET**



**VALUE IN
RESEARCH GRANTS
AWARDED
TO FLEET
INVESTIGATORS**



FLEET is pursuing the following research themes to develop systems in which electrical current can flow with near-zero resistance:

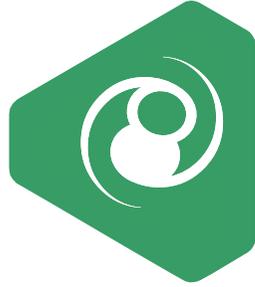


RESEARCH THEME 1: TOPOLOGICAL MATERIALS

FLEET's first research theme seeks electrical current flow with near-zero resistance based on a paradigm shift in materials science that yielded 'topological insulators'.

Topological insulators conduct electricity only along their edges, and strictly in one direction, without the 'back-scattering' that dissipates energy in conventional electronics.

See p24



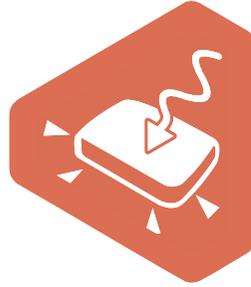
RESEARCH THEME 2: EXCITON SUPERFLUIDS

FLEET's second research theme uses a quantum state known as a superfluid to achieve electrical current flow with minimal wasted dissipation of energy.

In a superfluid, scattering is prohibited by quantum statistics, so charge carriers can flow without resistance.

Superfluids may be formed by excitons (electrons bound to 'holes').

See p28



RESEARCH THEME 3: LIGHT- TRANSFORMED MATERIALS

FLEET's third research theme represents a paradigm shift in material engineering, in which materials are temporarily forced out of equilibrium.

For example, zero-resistance paths for electrical current can be created using short, intense bursts of light, temporarily forcing matter to adopt a new, distinct topological state.

See p34

These research approaches are enabled by the following technologies:



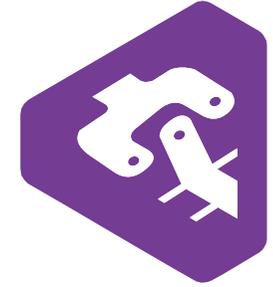
ENABLING TECHNOLOGY A: ATOMICALLY- THIN MATERIALS

Each of FLEET's three research themes is heavily enabled by the science of novel, atomically-thin, two-dimensional (2D) materials.

These materials can be as thin as just one single layer of atoms, with resulting unusual and useful electronic properties.

To provide these materials FLEET draws on extensive expertise in materials synthesis in Australia and internationally.

See p40



ENABLING TECHNOLOGY B: NANODEVICE FABRICATION

FLEET's research sits at the very boundary of what is possible in condensed-matter physics.

At the nano scale, nanofabrication of functioning devices will be key to the Centre's success.

Nano-device fabrication and characterisation links many of FLEET's groups and nodes with diverse fields of expertise such as device fabrication or measurement.

See p46

FLEET CHIEF INVESTIGATORS BY THEME





MICHAEL FUHRER

Director, Node leader, Monash University

Michael synthesises and studies new, ultra-thin topological Dirac semimetals and two-dimensional (2D) topological insulators with large bandgaps within Research theme 1.

A pioneer of the study of electronic properties of 2D materials, Michael is an ARC Laureate Fellow, Fellow of the American Physics Society, and Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.



ALEX HAMILTON

Deputy Director, Node leader, UNSW

Alex leads Research theme 1 and develops new techniques to fabricate and study both natural and artificially engineered topological materials.

An internationally-recognised expert on 2D and nanoscale electronic conduction, and hole behaviour in semiconductor nanostructures, Alex is a UNSW Scientia Professor and a Fellow of the American Physical Society.



ELENA OSTROVSKAYA

Node leader, ANU

Leading Research theme 2, Elena directs theoretical and experimental research on exciton and exciton-polariton Bose-Einstein condensation and superfluidity near room temperature.



KRIS HELMERSON

Monash

Heading Research theme 3, Kris uses ultra-cold atoms in an optical lattice to investigate driven Floquet systems, and topological states in multidimensional extensions of the kicked quantum rotor.



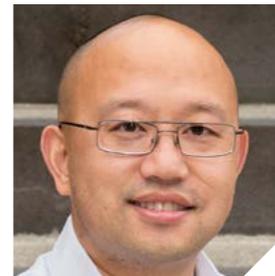
XIAOLIN WANG

Node leader, UOW

Directing Enabling technology A, Xiaolin investigates charge and spin effects in magnetic topological insulators, and leads fabrication of FLEET's single-crystal bulk and thin-film samples.

I am motivated to improve the quality of modern life by developing next-generation, high-performance electronic or optical computing devices.

A/Prof Qiaoliang Bao
FLEET Chief Investigator,
Monash University



LAN WANG

Node leader, RMIT

Leading Enabling technology B, Lan also directs study of high-temperature quantum anomalous Hall systems in Research theme 1 and synthesis of novel 2D materials for Enabling technology A.



CHRIS VALE

Node leader, Swinburne

Chris synthesises and characterises topological phenomena in 2D, ultra-cold fermionic atomic gases, investigating new forms of topological matter within Research theme 3.



MATTHEW DAVIS

Node leader, UQ

Within Research theme 3, Matthew studies transitions between novel non-equilibrium states of matter, focusing on relaxation in non-equilibrium and destructive effects of coupling to the environment.



**NAGARAJAN 'NAGY'
VALANOOR**

UNSW

Nagy explores oxides for low-energy electronic devices founded on topological materials in Enabling technology A and synthesises ferroelectric and ferromagnetic materials for Research themes 1 and 2.



AGUSTIN SCHIFFRIN

Monash

Agustin investigates optically-driven topological phases using ultra-fast photonics, pump-probe spectroscopy and time-resolved scanning probe microscopy within Research themes 1 and 3.



DIMI CULCER

UNSW

Dimi studies theoretical charge and spin transport in topological materials and artificial graphene with strong spin-orbit coupling within Research theme 1.



JAN SEIDEL

UNSW

Jan uses scanning probe microscopy (SPM) to study complex oxide materials systems for Research themes 1 and 2, and nanoscale SPM patterning in topological materials in Enabling technology B.



JARED COLE

RMIT

Jared applies quantum theory to study electronic transport in nanostructures and the behaviour of topologically-protected conduction channels in electronic devices.



JEFF DAVIS

Swinburne

Jeff uses femtosecond laser pulses in Swinburne's ultra-fast science facility to modify electronic band structure and realise Floquet topological insulators in 2D materials, within Research themes 2 and 3.



**KOUROSH
KALANTAR-ZADEH**

UNSW / RMIT

Kourosh develops novel 2D semiconducting materials and fabrication techniques for advanced devices, using electron and ion-beam lithography for Enabling technology B.



MEERA PARISH

Monash

Meera investigates the robustness of excitonic superfluidity to an electron-hole density imbalance in bilayers in Research theme 2, searching for exotic forms of superfluidity. She also studies impurities dynamically coupled to fermion-pair superfluids in Research theme 3.



NIKHIL MEDHEKAR

Monash

Nikhil investigates the electronic structure of atomically-thin topological insulators and interfaces in Research theme 1 via quantum mechanical simulations on massively-parallel, high-performance computing systems.



OLEG SUSHKOV

UNSW

Oleg leads two theoretical investigations within Research theme 1: artificial nanofabricated materials and laterally-modulated oxide interfaces.



OLEH KLOCHAN

UNSW

Oleh leads the fabrication and measurements of artificially-designed topological insulators using conventional semiconductors in Research theme 1.



QIAOLIANG BAO

Monash

Qiaoliang investigates waveguide-coupled 2D semiconductors in Research theme 2 and plasmon-coupled 2D materials and devices in Enabling technology B, focusing on effects of light-matter interactions.

PARTNER INVESTIGATORS



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University of Texas



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University of Camerino



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Australian Synchrotron



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LEGEND

- Research theme 1, topological materials
- Research theme 2, exciton superfluids
- Research theme 3, light-transformed materials
- Enabling technology A, atomically-thin materials
- Enabling technology B, nano-device fabrication



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**Oliver
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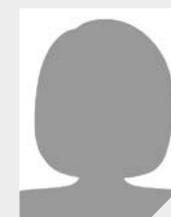
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MASTERS STUDENT
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RESEARCH FELLOWS



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Aydin Keser
University of New South Wales



Babar Shabbir
Monash University



Benjamin Carey
Alumnus, now at University of Munster



Carlos Claiton Noschang Kuhn
Swinburne University



Changxi Zheng
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Alumnus, now at Nanyang Technological University Singapore



Feixiang Xiang
University of New South Wales



Gary Beane
Monash University



Golrokh Akhgar
RMIT University



Guangyao Li
Monash University



Guolin Zheng
RMIT University



Harley Scammell
Alumnus, now at Harvard University



LEGEND

- Research theme 1, topological materials
- Research theme 2, exciton superfluids
- Research theme 3, light-transformed materials
- Enabling technology A, atomically-thin materials
- Enabling technology B, nano-device fabrication



Isabela Alves de Castro
Alumnus, now at Alcoa



Ivan Herrera
Swinburne University



Jackson Smith
RMIT University



Karina Hudson
University of New South Wales



Kun Qi
Monash University



Maciej Pieczarka
Australian National University



Matt Reeves
University of Queensland



Matthew Rendell
University of New South Wales



Pankaj Bhalla
Beijing Computational Science Research Center



Pankaj Sharma
University of New South Wales



Paul Atkin
RMIT University



Peggy Qi Zhang
University of New South Wales



Samuel Bladwell
University of New South Wales



Sascha Hoinka
Swinburne University



Shaun Johnstone
Monash University



Shilpa Sanwani
Swinburne University



Shivananju Bannur Nanjunda
Monash University



Steven Barrow
Alumnus, RMIT University



Stuart Earl
Swinburne University



Weizhe Liu
Monash University



Yun Suk Eo
University of Maryland



Yuefeng Yin
Monash University



Yupeng Zhang
Alumnus, now at Shenzhen University



Zengji Yue
University of Wollongong



Zhigao Dai
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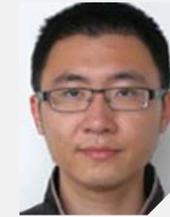
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Jesse Vaitkus
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University of New South Wales



Jialu Zheng
Monash University



Lawrence Farrar
RMIT University



Marina Castelli
Monash University



Maryam Boozarjmehr
Australian National University



Matthias Wurdack
Australian National University



LEGEND

- Research theme 1, topological materials
- Research theme 2, exciton superfluids
- Research theme 3, light-transformed materials
- Enabling technology A, atomically-thin materials
- Enabling technology B, nano-device fabrication



Nuriyah Aloufi
RMIT University



Oliver Paull
University of
New South
Wales



Oliver Sandberg
University of
Queensland



Pavel Kolesnichenko
Swinburne
University



Qingdong Ou
Monash
University



Rebecca Orrell-Trigg
University of
New South
Wales



Samuel Wilkinson
RMIT University



Stuart Burns
University of
New South
Wales



Sultan Albarakati
RMIT University



Tatek Lemma
Swinburne
University



Tinghe Yun
Monash
University



Tommy Bartolo
RMIT University



Tyson Pepler
Swinburne
University



Vivasha Govinden
University of
New South
Wales



Wafa Afzal
University of
Wollongong



Weiyao Zhao
University of
Wollongong



Wenzhi Yu
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University



Yonatan Ashlea Alava
University of
New South
Wales



Yun Li
Monash
University



Zhi-Tao Deng
University of
Queensland



Zhichen Wan
Monash
University



I enjoy this field of research because there is so much that needs to be explored experimentally. It is a relatively new field, with a lot of unanswered questions.

Wafa Afzal
FLEET PhD student





PROF ALEX
HAMILTON

**Leader,
Research theme 1**

UNSW

"FLEET enables our researchers to tackle big challenges by working with scientists all over Australia"

Expertise: electronic conduction in two-dimensional (2D) and nanoscale transistors, spin-orbit interactions, behaviour of holes in semiconductor nanostructures

Research outputs: 210+ papers, 3700+ citations, h-index 30



RESEARCH THEME 1: TOPOLOGICAL MATERIALS

FLEET's first research theme seeks to achieve electrical current flow with near-zero resistance based on a paradigm shift in the understanding of condensed-matter physics and materials science: the advent of topological insulators.

Unlike conventional insulators, which do not conduct electricity at all, topological insulators conduct electricity, but only along their edges.

Along those edge paths, they conduct electrons strictly in one direction, without the 'back-scattering' of electrons that dissipates energy in conventional electronics.

FLEET's challenge is to create topological materials that will operate as insulators in their interior, and have switchable conduction paths along their edges.

For the new technology to become a viable alternative to traditional transistors, the desired properties must be achievable at room temperature – there's no point in saving energy on transistor switching if you have to use even more energy to keep the system supercold.

Topological transistors would 'switch', just as a traditional transistor does.

Applying a controlling voltage would switch the edge paths of the topological material between being a topological insulator ('on') and a conventional insulator ('off').

Approaches used are:

- Magnetic topological insulators and quantum anomalous Hall effect (QAHE)
- Topological Dirac semimetals
- Artificial topological systems.



PhD student Vivasha Govinden (UNSW) studies ferroelectric coupling, seeking an enhanced electromechanical response that could be used in future nanoelectronic sensors and electronics.

IN 2019, FLEET WILL:

- Develop techniques to electrically probe topological crystals grown in high-vacuum chambers
- Develop new theoretical techniques and models to understand and predict the electronic properties of topological materials
- Fabricate artificial crystals out of conventional semiconductors.

DEFINITIONS

artificial topological systems Artificial analogues of graphene and 2D topological insulators

bandgap The energy gap that defines whether a material is a conductor, insulator or semiconductor; a large bandgap is required for a material to still be topological at room temperature

dissipationless current Electric current that flows without wasted dissipation of energy

quantum anomalous Hall effect (QAHE) A magnetic effect giving a material conducting edges carrying current in one direction only, completely without resistance

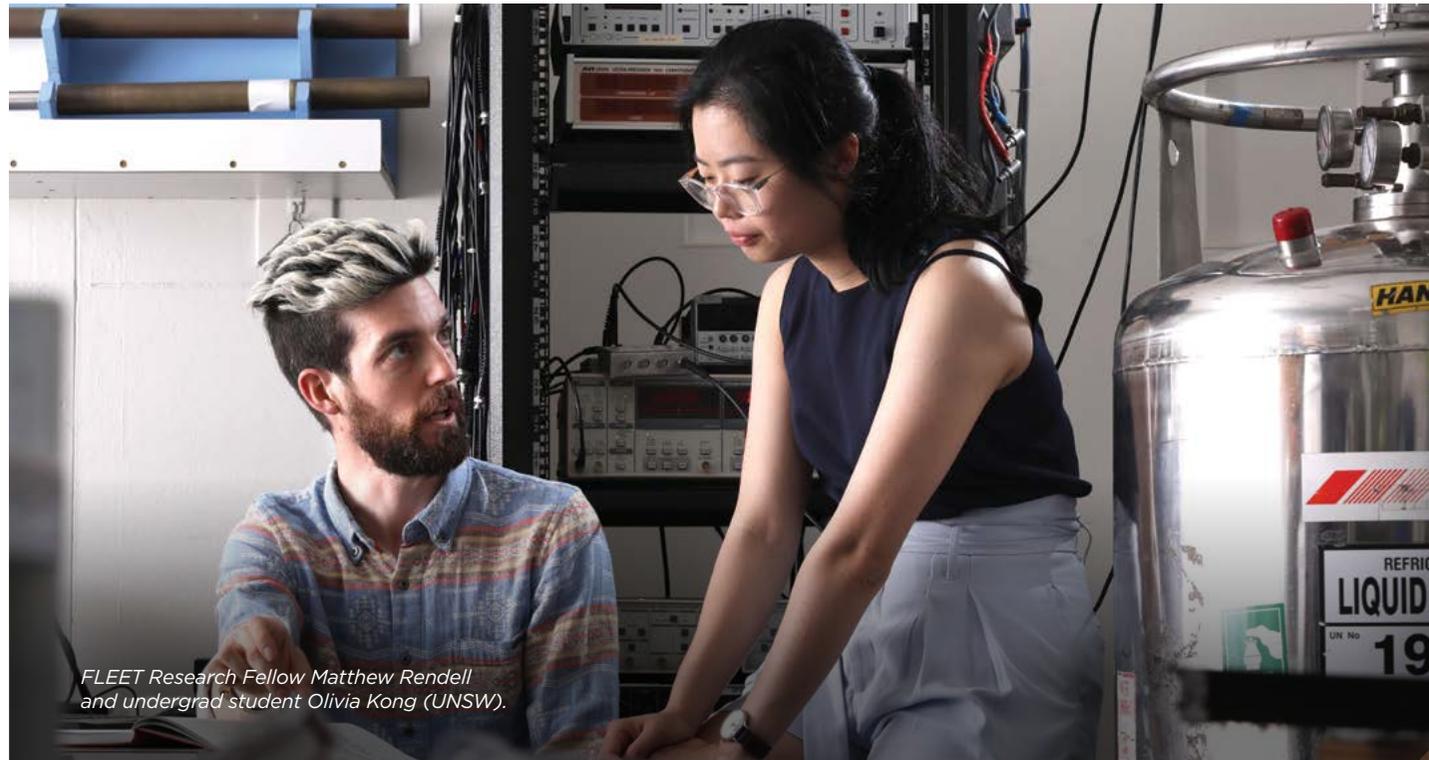
spin-orbit coupling The interaction between electrons' movement and their inherent angular momentum, which drives topological effects

DID YOU KNOW...

Information and communication technology (ICT) now contribute as much to climate change as the aviation industry.

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- First demonstration of electrical switching of a material from a normal to a topological insulator, using an electric field, a key step towards making a topological transistor ([see case study, p26](#))
- New, fundamental theoretical work to understand the spin-orbit interaction that is behind topological materials, showing that spin-orbit interactions can significantly alter the Hall effect
- Development of a new photodetector based on the topological crystalline insulator SnTe
- Proposal for new superconducting device for routing electronic signals used in quantum circuits.

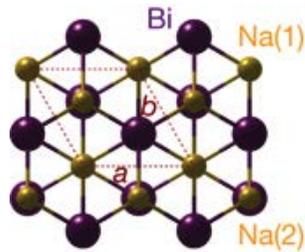


FLEET Research Fellow Matthew Rendell and undergrad student Olivia Kong (UNSW).



This new switch works on a fundamentally different principle than the transistors in today's computers. We envision such switches facilitating a completely new computing technology, which uses lower energy.

Dr Mark Edmonds
FLEET Scientific AI,
Monash University



SWITCHING TOPOLOGICAL STATE OFF AND ON: STEP TOWARDS A TOPOLOGICAL TRANSISTOR

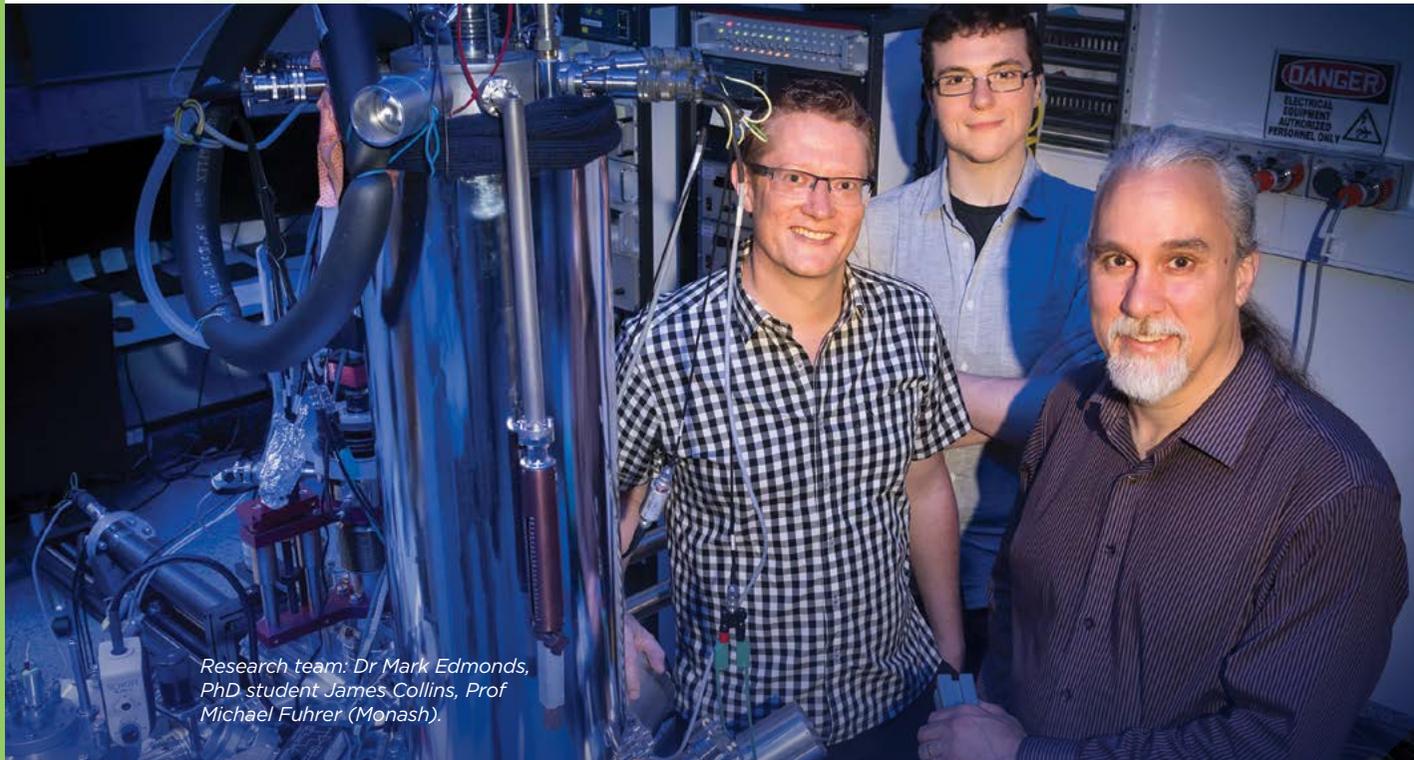
FLEET researchers achieve world first: successfully 'switching' a topological material, via application of an electric field.

This success represents the first step in creating a functioning topological transistor – a key goal of FLEET's Research theme 1.

"In a topological insulator's edge paths, electrons can only travel in one direction," explains lead author Dr Mark Edmonds. "And this means there can be no 'back-scattering', which is what causes electrical resistance in conventional electrical conductors."

Unlike conventional electrical conductors, such topological edge paths can carry electrical current with near-zero dissipation of energy, meaning that topological transistors could burn much less energy than conventional electronics. They could also potentially switch much faster.

Topological materials would form a transistor's active 'channel' component, and would switch between open (0) and closed (1) to accomplish the binary operation used in computing.



Research team: Dr Mark Edmonds, PhD student James Collins, Prof Michael Fuhrer (Monash).

The electric field induces a quantum transition from topological insulator to conventional insulator.

To be a viable alternative to current, silicon-based technology (CMOS), topological transistors must:

- operate at room temperature (without the need for expensive supercooling)
- 'switch' between conducting (1) and non-conducting (0)
- switch extremely rapidly, by application of an electric field.

While switchable topological insulators have been proposed in theory, this is the first time that experiment has proved that a material can switch at room temperature, which is crucial for any viable replacement technology.

(In this study, experiments were conducted at cryogenic temperatures, but the large bandgap measured confirms that the material will switch properly at room temperatures.)

The material Na_3Bi is a topological Dirac semimetal (TDS). These materials have long been considered promising systems in which to look for topological field-effect switching, as they lie at the boundary between conventional and topological phases.

The study found that when Na_3Bi is made 'atomically thin' (that is, only a few layers of atoms in thickness), it is possible to open an electronic band gap, turning the material into an insulator. This bandgap is an essential component in any electronic switch.

Crystal growth and measurements were conducted in FLEET's laboratories at Monash University, and at the Advanced Light Source (Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory), in California, where ARPES (angle-resolved photoemission spectroscopy) measurements were made. Research was also undertaken at the Australian Synchrotron.



This addresses FLEET milestone 11; see p93.

The study was published in *Nature* in December 2018, vol. 564 (see publication 10, p104).



More at [FLEET.org.au/topological-switching](https://www.fleet.org.au/topological-switching)

COLLABORATING FLEET PERSONNEL:

- Associate Investigator Mark Edmonds (Monash)
- PhD student James Collins (Monash)
- Partner Investigator Anton Tadich (Australian Synchrotron)
- PhD student Chang Liu (Monash)
- Associate Investigator Shaffique Adam (Yale-NUS)
- Chief Investigator Michael Fuhrer (Monash)

NEW PHYSICS: TOPOLOGICAL MATERIALS AND THE 2016 NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS

Topological materials represent a paradigm shift in material science, first proposed in 1987 and only demonstrated in the lab in the last decade.

The quantum anomalous Hall effect (QAHE) was achieved in the laboratory at Tsinghua University in 2013 by Prof Qi-Kun Xue, now a FLEET Partner Investigator and leading the Centre's collaboration with Tsinghua University.

This 2013 discovery showed that current could be carried with no measurable dissipation and opened up the field of topological electronics being investigated at FLEET.

The importance of topological materials was recognised by the 2016 Nobel Prize in Physics, awarded to Michael Kosterlitz, Duncan Haldane and David Thouless.



A/PROF ELENA
OSTROVSKAYA

Leader,
Research theme 2

Australian National University

“Research theme 2 highlights FLEET’s collaborative nature, involving cross-disciplinary input between nodes and with several Partner Investigators.”

Expertise: nonlinear physics, quantum degenerate gases, Bose-Einstein condensates, exciton-polaritons

Research outputs: 130+ papers, 3 book chapters, 3800+ citations, h-index 33



RESEARCH THEME 2: EXCITON SUPERFLUIDS

FLEET’s second research theme uses a quantum state known as a superfluid to achieve electrical current flow with minimal wasted dissipation of energy.

In a superfluid, scattering is prohibited by quantum statistics, so charge carriers can flow without resistance.

A superfluid is a quantum state in which all particles flow with the same momentum, and no energy is lost to other motion. Particles and quasi-particles, including both excitons and exciton-polaritons, can form a superfluid.

Researchers are seeking to create superfluid flows using three approaches:

- Exciton-polariton bosonic condensation in atomically-thin materials
- Topologically-protected exciton-polariton flow
- Exciton superfluids in twin-layer materials.

If exciton-superfluid devices are to be a viable, low-energy alternative to conventional electronic devices, they must be able to operate at room temperature, without energy-intensive cooling.

Thus, FLEET seeks to achieve superfluid flow at room temperature, using atomically-thin semiconductors as the medium for the superfluid.

IN 2019, FLEET WILL:

- Fabricate microcavities with transition metal dichalcogenides (TMDs) and observe strong light-matter coupling
- Characterise low-energy interactions in exciton systems
- Investigate designs to support twin-layer excitons
- Build on collaborations between FLEET nodes to design, fabricate and characterise heterostructures for theme 2 research.

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- Puzzling results explained: discovery of multiband mechanism for sign reversal of Coulomb drag in bi-layer graphene structures ([see p30](#))
- First ‘single-shot’ observation of exciton-polariton condensation; an insight into non-equilibrium, solid-state condensation ([see p32](#))
- Observation of hybrid exciton-polariton condensation in a quantum-well/TMD-monolayer microcavity; the first step towards condensation of exciton-polaritons in a TMD monolayer, a key FLEET goal.

DID YOU KNOW...

A superfluid is a quantum state in which particles flow without encountering any resistance to their motion. Both excitons and exciton-polaritons can flow in a superfluid.

DEFINITIONS

bandgap The energy gap that defines whether a material is a conductor, insulator or semiconductor; a large bandgap is required for a material to still be topological at room temperature

Bose-Einstein condensate (BEC) A quantum state occurring at ultra-cold temperatures

dissipationless current Electric current that flows without wasted dissipation of energy

exciton Two strongly-bound charged particles: an electron and a 'hole'

exciton-polariton Part matter and part light quasi-particle: an exciton bound to a photon

microcavities A micrometre-scale structure; an optical medium sandwiched between ultra-reflective mirrors, used to confine light such that it forms exciton-polaritons

monolayer A single 2D layer of material

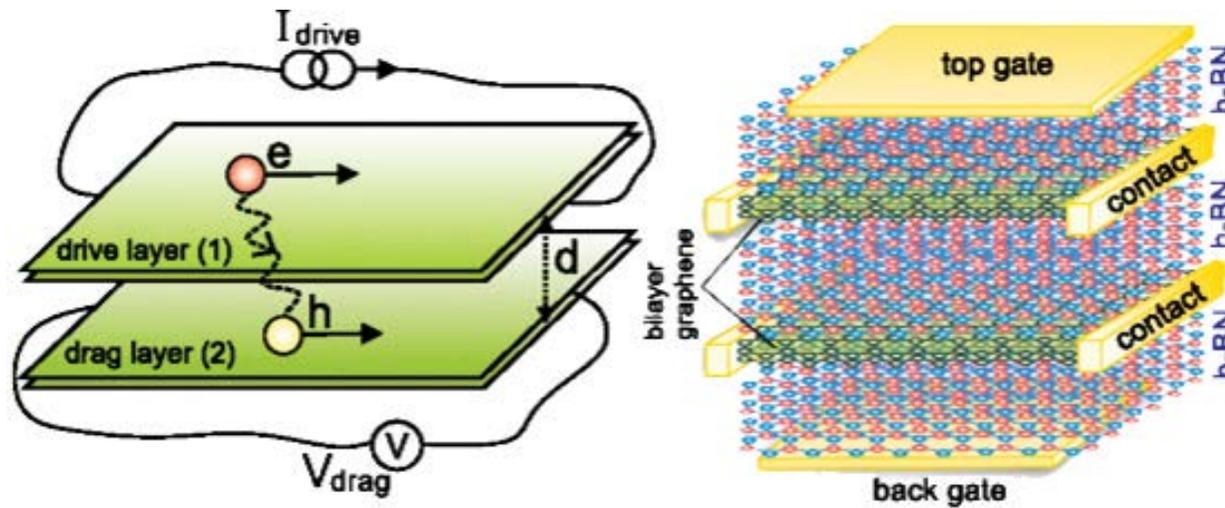
non-equilibrium state A state temporarily forced by the application of energy, such as light

superfluid A quantum state in which particles flow without encountering any resistance to their motion; both excitons and exciton-polaritons can flow in a superfluid

transition metal dichalcogenides (TMDs) Atomically-thin materials with useful physical properties for electronic and optoelectronic devices; used as the optical medium in microcavities



Theme 2 researchers Dr David Colas (UQ) and Dr Eliezer Estrecho (ANU).



Left: An electron (e) accelerated in the top sheet causes a hole (h) in the lower sheet to be accelerated.

Right: Device schematic: one sheet of graphene carries electrons, the other, separated by insulating hBN, carries holes.



PUZZLING RESULTS EXPLAINED IN EXCITON EXPERIMENT

Taking a multiband approach explains electron-hole 'reverse drag'

In 2018, a FLEET theoretical study finally unlocked a previously mysterious result that seemed to show coupled holes and electrons moving in the opposite direction to that predicted by theory.

The FLEET study showed that this seemingly contradictory phenomenon is associated with the bandgap in dual-layer graphene structures, a bandgap which is very much smaller than in conventional semiconductors.

The study authors, which included FLEET Partner Investigator Prof David Neilson at the University of Camerino (Italy) and FLEET CI Prof Alex Hamilton at UNSW, found that the new multiband theory fully explained the previously inexplicable experimental results.

Exciton transport offers great promise to researchers, including the potential for ultra-low dissipation future electronics.

In an indirect exciton, free electrons in one two-dimensional (2D) sheet can be electrostatically bound to 'holes' (effectively, absent electrons) in a neighbouring 2D sheet.

Because the electrons and holes are each confined to their own 2D sheets, they cannot recombine, but they can electrically bind together if the two 2D sheets are very close (a few nanometres).

If electrons in the top ('drive') sheet are accelerated by an applied voltage, then each partnering hole in the lower ('drag') sheet can be 'dragged' by its electron.

A goal in such a mechanism is for the exciton to remain bound, and to travel as a superfluid, a quantum state with zero viscosity, and thus without wasted dissipation of energy.

To achieve this superfluid state, precisely-engineered 2D materials must be kept only a few nanometres apart.

An insulating sheet between two sheets of atomically-thin (2D) graphene prevents recombination of electrons and holes.

Passing a current through one sheet and measuring the drag signal in the other sheet allows experimenters to measure the interactions between electrons in one sheet and holes in the other, and to ultimately detect a clear signature of superfluid formation.

However, experiments published in 2016 showed extremely puzzling results. Under certain experimental conditions, the Coulomb drag was found to be negative. That is, moving an electron in one direction caused the hole in the other sheet to move in the opposite direction!

These results could not be explained by existing theories.

The FLEET study explained these puzzling results using crucial multi-band processes that had not previously been considered in theoretical models.

Bi-layer graphene has a very small bandgap, which can be changed by application of an electric field.

The calculation of transport in multiple bands was the 'missing link' marrying theory to experimental results. The strange 'negative drag' happens when available thermal energy approaches the bandgap energy.



This addresses FLEET milestone 1.2; **see p93.**

The study was published in *Physical Review Letters* in July 2018, vol. 121 (**see publication 57, p106**).

COLLABORATING FLEET PERSONNEL:

- Chief Investigator Alex Hamilton (UNSW)
- Partner Investigator David Neilson (University of Camerino)



More at FLEET.org.au/puzzling-excitons



This research area allows us to combine very deep, fundamental questions about the nature of quantum phase transitions in a solid state and, at the same time, is very promising for future applications in low-energy electronics.

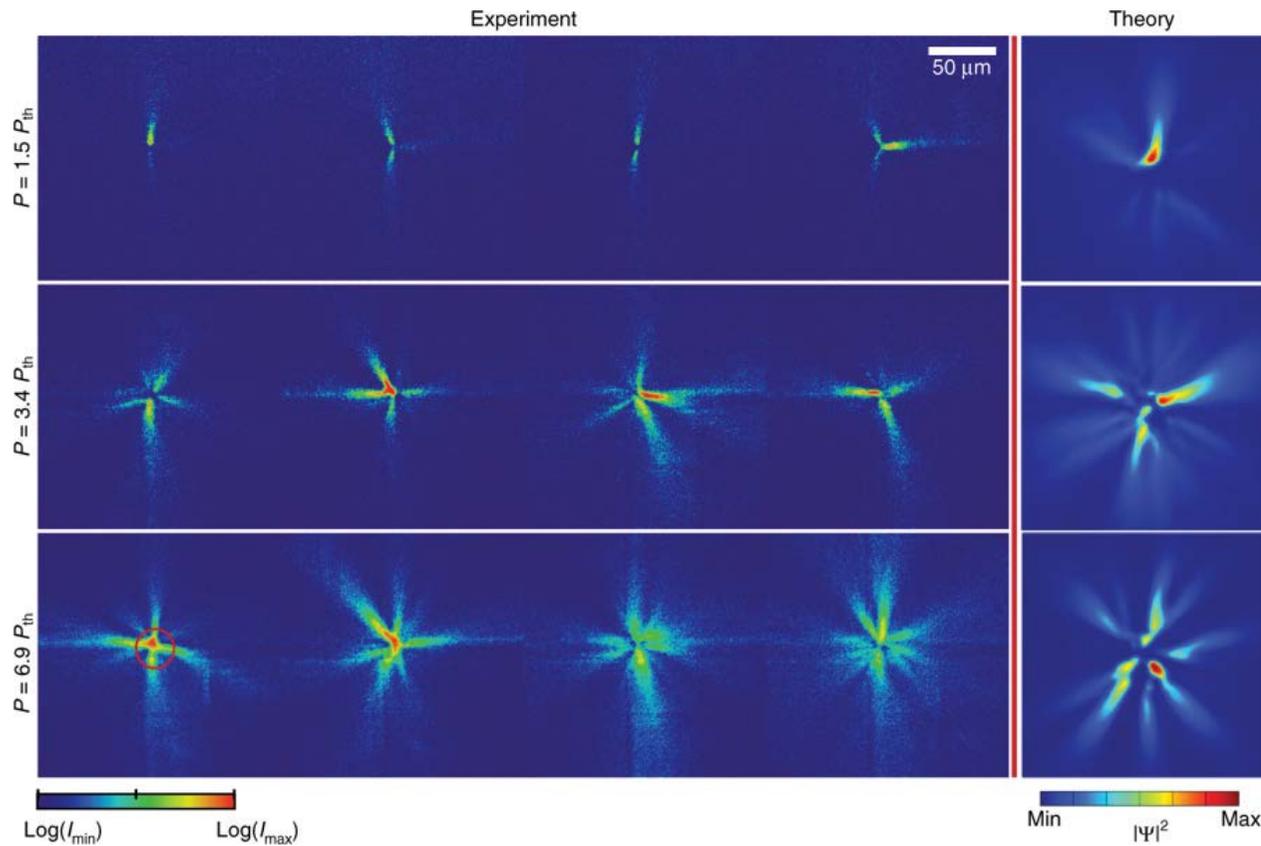
A/Prof Elena Ostrovskaya
FLEET Chief Investigator, ANU



I love this field of research because it gives us so much freedom and flexibility in designing the experiments and testing novel ideas in exciton-polariton superfluids.

Dr Harley Scammell
FLEET Research Fellow UNSW





Single-shot condensation of polaritons. Theory (on the right) shows remarkable agreement with experiment (left).



FIRST EXCITON SNAPSHOT

First-ever 'snapshot' of Bose-Einstein condensation achieved in FLEET/ANU study

Previously, observations of exciton-polaritons in a Bose-Einstein condensate have been limited to statistical averaging over millions of condensation events.

'Snapshot' imaging of polaritons forming a condensate in a typical inorganic semiconductor was considered impossible.

In 2018, FLEET researchers at ANU led an international study imaging exciton-polaritons for the first time as a 'single shot', rather than averaging.

"This offers a unique opportunity to understand the details of Bose-Einstein condensation of exciton-polaritons," explains lead author Dr Eliezer Estrecho.

Such fundamental advances also aid FLEET's research on excitonic condensation and superfluidity as a mechanism for electronic conduction without wasted dissipation of energy.

Exciton-polaritons are hybrid particles that are part matter and part light, bound together by strong coupling of photons and electron-hole pairs (excitons) within a semiconductor microcavity.

However, because exciton-polariton lifetimes are measured in picoseconds (trillionths of a second), previously observations have always averaged over a million lifetimes of exciton-polaritons.

This is like taking a long exposure of moving objects: you get a blurred image.

The ANU team made sure that their sensitive camera captures only one lifetime or 'single shot' of the condensate, enabling them to observe never-before-seen behaviour of exciton-polaritons.

The single-shot imaging is performed by analysing photoluminescence caused by the decay of exciton-polaritons, a technique thought to be impossible in inorganic microcavities because emissions simply weren't bright enough.

Usually, the density of exciton-polaritons trapped in inorganic microcavities is too low to be detected in single-shot mode, partly because exciton-polaritons do not live long enough for the density to build up.

To get a better signal, the team used ultra-high-quality samples designed and made by their collaborators in the USA, extending the lifetime of polaritons by an order of magnitude and pushing the density high enough for the sensitive camera to detect.

The imaging revealed that, contrary to the smooth condensate observed in averaged experiments, the condensate actually forms filaments whose orientation varies from shot to shot.

The study found remarkable agreement between experiment and numerical simulations, validating the background theory of exciton-polariton condensate dynamics.

The work paves the way for further fundamental studies of quantum phase transitions and non-equilibrium condensation in solid-state systems.

The single-shot experiments could prove critical for our understanding of the fundamental (and still debated) nature of the condensed phase in these systems.



This addresses FLEET milestone 1.2; **see p93.**

The study was published in *Nature Communications* in August 2018, vol. 9 (**see publication 13, p104**).



[More at FLEET.org.au/exciton-snapshot](https://www.fleet.org.au/exciton-snapshot)



Single-shot imaging of a polariton condensate was thought impossible, but we still tried, and succeeded, finding interesting effects never observed in experiments before.

Dr Eliezer Estrecho
FLEET Research Fellow,
ANU



COLLABORATING FLEET PERSONNEL:

- Research Fellow Eliezer Estrecho (ANU)
- Chief Investigator Elena Ostrovskaya (ANU)



PROF KRIS
HELMERSON

Leader,
Research theme 3

Monash University

“FLEET puts us at the forefront of research and potential application of the non-equilibrium behaviour of materials”

Expertise: ultra-cold collisions of atoms, matter-wave optics, nonlinear atoms dynamics, atomic gas superfluidity, atomtronics, non-linear atom optics

Research outputs: 100+ papers, 5000+ citations, h-index 31



RESEARCH THEME 3: LIGHT-TRANSFORMED MATERIALS

FLEET’s third research theme represents a paradigm shift in material engineering, in which materials are temporarily forced out of equilibrium.

The zero-resistance paths for electrical current sought at FLEET can be created using two non-equilibrium mechanisms:

- Short, intense bursts of light temporarily forcing matter to adopt a new, distinct topological state
- Dynamically-engineered dissipationless transport.

Very short, intense pulses of light are used to force materials to become topological insulators (**see Research theme 1, p24**) or to shift into a superfluid state (**see Research theme 2, p28**).

The forced state achieved is only temporary, but researchers learn an enormous amount about the fundamental physics of topological insulators and superfluids as they observe the material shifting between natural and forced states over a period of several microseconds.

By using ultrashort pulses to switch between the dissipationless-conducting and normal states, we can also create ultra-fast opto-electronic switching of this dissipationless current.

Because this research is so interdisciplinary, I am able to connect multiple research directions into one and see a bigger picture, making me a more-rounded scientist.

Pavel Kolesnichenko
FLEET PhD student,
Swinburne

IN 2019, FLEET WILL:

- Begin construction of quantum gas microscope facility at Swinburne University to study dipolar atoms in optical lattices
- Engineer wave interactions via Feshbach resonances in a 2D Fermi gas to ultimately realise topological superfluidity
- Further develop femtosecond band control in 2D solid-state material for engineering of Floquet topological insulators
- Investigate, with ultracold atoms, the effect of interactions between particles in the quantum kicked rotor to test theories of many-body dynamical localisation and insulator behaviour of materials
- Launch experimental infrastructure to study ultra-fast, light-induced dynamics and light-driven topological phase transitions in optically active materials
- Develop theory of driven dissipative superfluid to improve understanding of non-equilibrium transport
- Further develop a general framework for understanding behaviour of quasiparticles and low-energy excitation
- Demonstrate spin-orbit coupling in periodically-driven atomic system
- Investigate the utility of time crystals in the context of Floquet states.

DEFINITIONS

Bose-Einstein condensate (BEC) A quantum state occurring at ultra-cold temperatures

dissipationless current Electric current that flows without wasted dissipation of energy

equilibrium state The state in which a material is in balance, unchanging with time

Floquet topological insulator A topological insulator created by applying light to a conventional insulator

non-equilibrium state A state temporarily forced by the application of energy, such as light

non-linear interactions Interactions in which forces acting on a system cause disproportionate results

spin-orbit interaction The interaction between electrons' movement and their inherent angular momentum, which drives topological effects

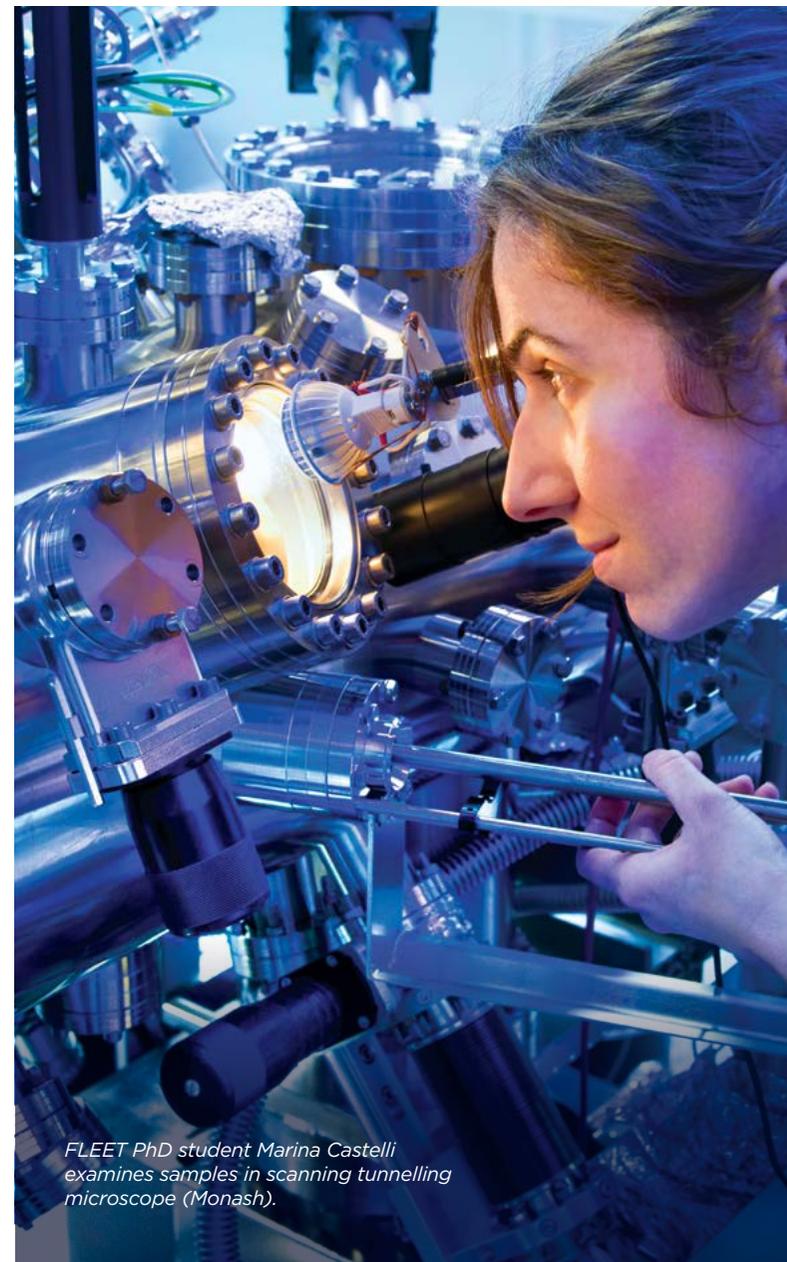
superfluid A quantum state in which particles flow without encountering any resistance to their motion. Both excitons and exciton-polaritons can flow in a superfluid

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- Observation of quantum anomaly in an ultra-cold 2D Fermi gas ([see case study p36](#))
- Comprehensive explanation of the meaning of negative effective mass in spin-orbit coupled BECs ([see case study p38](#)), improving understanding of atom transport in materials due to transient applied forces or impulses
- Realisation of negative absolute temperature distribution of vortices in a superfluid, verified in twin Monash/University of Queensland studies
- Control of Floquet-Bloch bands with femtosecond laser pulses, indicating that Floquet-Bloch states are minimally affected by finite pulse duration (down to 30 fs): a step toward dynamic band-structure engineering of materials
- Development of a new theoretical approach for finite-temperature dynamics, improving understanding of impurity effects at non-zero temperature, a phenomena common to all materials
- Theoretical study of quantum battery, indicating that quantum effects can improve charging of a spintronic battery with implications for new approaches of driven, dissipationless conduction, as well as faster switching of magnetic materials.

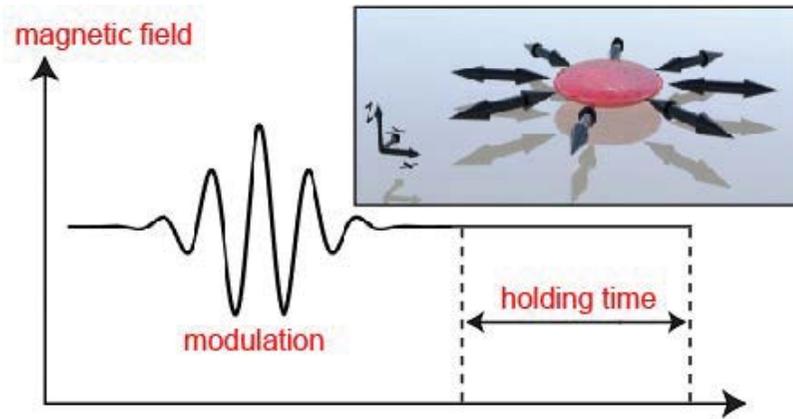
DID YOU KNOW...

FLEET researchers cool atomic gases to only a few nanoKelvins above Absolute Zero, which is a billion times colder than interstellar space.

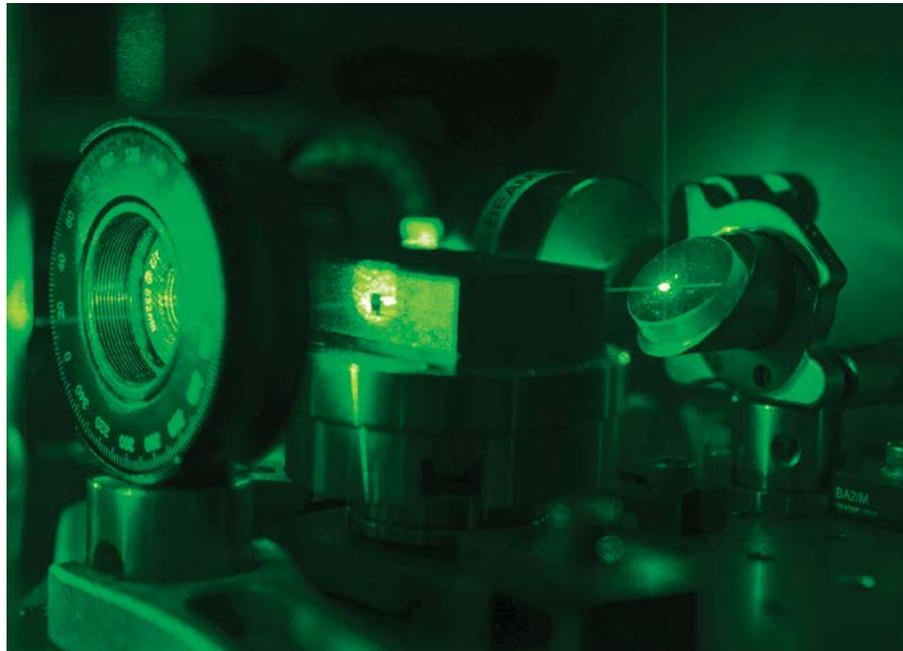


FLEET PhD student Marina Castelli examines samples in scanning tunnelling microscope (Monash).

An oscillating magnetic field is applied to an atomic gas (shown upper right), causing it's size to oscillate in two dimensions.



Laser equipment (532nm) at Swinburne University of Technology, used to confine the atomic gas.



BREAKING A CLASSICAL SYMMETRY WITH ULTRA-COLD ATOMS

Scaling symmetry in a 2D Fermi gas breaks down with strong interactions between particles

A 2018 FLEET study of ultra-cold atomic gases – a billionth the temperature of outer space – unlocked new, fundamental quantum effects.

In this study, a simple, classical theory of atomic interaction is shown to break down, and a more-sophisticated quantum treatment is required.

The researchers at Swinburne University of Technology studied collective oscillations in ultra-cold atomic gases – identifying where quantum effects occur to ‘break’ symmetries predicted by classical physics.

They also observed the transition between two-dimensional (2D) behaviour and three-dimensional (3D) behaviour.

“Fundamental discoveries made from such observations will inform FLEET’s search for electronic conduction without wasted dissipation of energy,” explained study author Prof Chris Vale.

Two-dimensional materials exhibit many novel physical properties and are keenly studied for their potential uses; for example, in ultra-low energy electronics.

However, strong correlations and imperfections within 2D materials make them difficult to understand

theoretically. Quantum gases of ultra-cold atoms help unlock the fundamental physics of 2D materials, as well as uncovering new phenomena not readily accessible in other systems.

Experiments performed on quantum gases of ultra-cold neutral atoms enhance our understanding of phase transitions and the effects of interactions between particles.

This improved ability, understanding and control of phase transitions will have a direct application in FLEET's development of future low-energy, topologically-based electronics.

'Symmetries' are an essential ingredient in the formulation of many physics theories, allowing simplified descriptions by identifying which factors *don't* modify a system's underlying physical properties.

For example, in a 'scale invariant' system, changing the distances between its particles doesn't alter the behaviour of a material but merely 'scales' it by an appropriate factor.

Gases of ultra-cold atoms confined to a two-dimensional plane allowed FLEET researchers to explore regimes where that 'scaling symmetry' can be broken by quantum effects.

Researchers studied a strongly-interacting 2D gas of lithium atoms, measuring the frequency of a radial oscillation known as the 'breathing mode', which is a window to the gas's thermodynamic equation of state and whose frequency is set by the gas's compressibility.

The breathing mode is the gas's lowest energy collective oscillation, and as long as scaling symmetry exists, the breathing mode should always occur at the same frequency (exactly twice the harmonic confinement frequency).

The study confirmed that scaling symmetry is broken in the presence of strong interactions between particles, affecting the thermodynamic relation between the pressure and density.

This is called a quantum anomaly, being something that occurs when a symmetry that is present in a classical theory is broken in the corresponding quantum theory.



This addresses FLEET milestone 1.1, as well as working towards milestones 1.2 and 1.3; [see p93](#).

The study was published in *Physical Review Letters* in September 2018, vol. 121 ([see publication 32, p105](#)).



[More at FLEET.org.au/breaking-symmetry](https://fleet.org.au/breaking-symmetry)



FLEET inspires me to do new research and to seek new collaborations.

Dr Jesper Levinson
FLEET Scientific AI,
Monash University



COLLABORATING FLEET PERSONNEL:

- Associate Investigator Paul Dyke (Swinburne)
- Research Fellow Ivan Herrera (Swinburne)
- Research Fellow Sasha Hoinka (Swinburne)
- Chief Investigator Chris Vale (Swinburne)
- Chief Investigator Meera Parish (Monash)
- Associate Investigator Jesper Levinson (Monash)



CLARIFYING EFFECTS OF NEGATIVE MASS

FLEET study clarifies understanding of negative mass

A FLEET study in 2018 has helped to clarify understanding of mass effects in ultra-cold gases.

When we think of 'mass', we usually consider the 'inertial' mass - the resistance of a body to acceleration due to an applied force.

For a moving object, its mass is then a simple relationship between momentum applied to it and the velocity it acquires.

However, in some situations, this relationship is not simply proportional and can depend on the impulse applied to the object. Physicists then talk about 'effective' mass, which can even be negative.

In such a case, an object would move in a completely non-intuitive way when acted on by a force.

"Imagine a soccer ball: you give it a first kick to get closer to the goal; you then give it an extra kick to score but, instead of accelerating, the ball slows down! You're a bit puzzled, so you decide to kick the ball even harder, and it now moves towards your foot and not away from it!" explains the lead author of the study, Dr David Colas (University of Queensland).

Dr David Colas (UQ) plans to name his next paper "Assisted negative-mass air soccer".

Negative masses can be achieved experimentally in various systems; for example, in ultra-cold atomic gases.

The UQ theoretical research expanded upon an earlier study at Washington State University that demonstrated a negative mass effect in the expansion of an ultra-cold atomic gas, nicely illustrating the versatility and great tunability of the UQ platform.

The UQ researchers clarified the effects associated to the different types of negative mass and identified the striking ‘self-interfering effect’ in the atomic condensate.

“To carry on with the soccer ball analogy, imagine that if you kick it too hard, you will squeeze it against your foot for a bit. When the ball leaves your boot, it re-expands and you see that the front part of the ball will eventually travel slower than its bottom part. The ball then interferes with itself,” continues Dr Colas.

Negative mass effects can come out in different forms, such as self-interference. But one of the most striking is the backward propagation of a positive impulse: the hypothetical soccer ball that accelerates *towards* the kicker’s boot, not away from it.

Clarification of the type of mass that is responsible for each observed phenomenon will avoid common

misinterpretations about negative mass. Such clarification will help get negative mass research back on track.



This addresses FLEET milestone 1.1, as well as working towards milestones 1.2 and 1.3; [see p93](#).

The study was published in *Physical Review Letters* in July 2018, vol. 121 ([see publication 9, p104](#)).



[More at FLEET.org.au/negative-mass](https://fleet.org.au/negative-mass)

COLLABORATING FLEET PERSONNEL:

- Research Fellow David Colas (UQ)
- Chief Investigator Matthew Davis (UQ)



The stability of funding allows for building a strong team for long-term projects. I like to think I do work of high quality, and it takes time for this to eventuate. Some very good stuff is coming in the next year or two.

Prof Matthew Davis
FLEET Chief Investigator, UQ





PROF XIAOLIN WANG

**Leader,
Enabling technology A**

University of Wollongong

“Novel materials are fascinating for both fundamental physics and their great practical applications in electronics.”

Expertise: design/fabrication and electronic/spintronic/superconducting properties of novel electronic or spintronic systems such as topological insulators, high spin-polarised materials, superconductors, multiferroic materials, single crystals, thin films, nanosize particles/ribbons/rings/wires

Research outputs: 460+ publications, 9900+ citations, h-index 48



ENABLING TECHNOLOGY A: ATOMICALLY-THIN MATERIALS

Each of FLEET's three research themes is heavily enabled by the science of novel, atomically-thin, two-dimensional (2D) materials.

These are materials that can be as thin as just one single layer of atoms, with resulting unusual and useful electronic properties.

To provide these materials, from bulk crystals to thin films to atomically-thin layers, FLEET draws on extensive expertise in materials synthesis in Australia and internationally.

The most well-known atomically-thin material is graphene, a 2D sheet of carbon atoms that is an extraordinarily-good electrical conductor.

FLEET uses other atomically-thin materials, with its scientists seeking materials possessing the necessary properties for topological and exciton-superfluid states.

IN 2019, FLEET WILL:

- Further increase temperature for topological surface states in three-dimensional (3D) topological insulators
- Continue to search for new magnetic systems for quantum anomalous Hall effect (QAHE) using modelling
- Work on new magnetic doping for anomalous Hall effect or QAHE
- Continue scanning tunnelling microscope study of atomically-thin systems
- Continue angle-resolved photoemission spectroscopy (ARPES) study of electronic structures.

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- Collaborations between FLEET nodes to fabricate 2D materials for research
- Achieved topological surface states robust to 50 degrees Kelvin in chemically-modified Sb_2Se_3
- Discovery of new excitonic insulating state in atomically-thin antimony
- Discovery of ferroelectricity in 2D semiconductor In_2Se_3
- Successful fabrication of 2D oxides from liquid metals
- Fabrication of high-quality perovskite oxide heterostructures, realising new oxides stable only in ultra-thin form with promise for new topological oxides
- Discovery of first vdW hard ferromagnetic metal with near-square magnetic loop and strong perpendicular anisotropy
- Thickness dependence of tungsten ditelluride (WTe_2) – [see case study p44](#) below.

DID YOU KNOW...

FLEET scientists use materials that are 'atomically thin', ie, only one layer of atoms in thickness. These materials are also referred to as 'two dimensional' (2D).



FLEET's research goals are at the extreme cutting edge, and are super challenging from a physics perspective, both in simply gaining understanding, and in their execution. I have the feeling that we are at the forefront of something massive.

Dr Daniel Sandoo
FLEET Research Fellow,
UNSW



DEFINITIONS

graphene A single 2D layer of carbon atoms

heterostructure A structure in which two dissimilar materials are brought together at a controlled interface

molecular beam epitaxy (MBE) A method used to deposit thin films of single crystals

monolayer A single layer of material

quantum anomalous Hall effect (QAHE) A magnetic effect giving a material conducting edges carrying current in one direction only, completely without resistance

van der Waals (vdW) material A material naturally made of 2D layers, which can be isolated individually or stacked with other materials to form new structures



PhD student Wafa Afzal (UOW) presenting her work on the magnetic state of atomically-thin materials.

*Research Fellow
Dr Ali Zavabeti (RMIT)
prepares liquid metal
samples used in nanofiltration.*



RAPID NANOFILTER DEVELOPED FOR INSTANT CLEAN WATER

Liquid metals the path to new nanofilter

FLEET researchers have designed a rapid nanofilter that can clean dirty water over 100 times faster than current technology.

Simple to make and simple to scale up, the technology harnesses naturally-occurring nanostructures of aluminium hydroxide, grown on liquid-metal gallium.

This innovative technology can filter both heavy metals and oils from water at extraordinary speed.

FLEET Research Fellow Dr Ali Zavabeti (RMIT) explains that water contamination remains a significant challenge globally - one in nine people have no clean water close to home. "Heavy metal contamination causes serious health problems and children are particularly vulnerable," Dr Zavabeti says.

"Our new nanofilter, made of stacked, atomically-thin sheets of aluminium hydroxide, is sustainable, environmentally friendly, scalable and low cost.

"We've shown it works to remove lead and oil from water, but we also know it has potential to target other common contaminants, such as mercury, sulfates and phosphates.

The liquid-metal chemistry process developed by the researchers has potential applications across a range of industries, including electronics, membranes, optics and catalysis.

“The technique is potentially of significant industrial value, since it can be readily upscaled, the liquid metal can be reused, and the process requires only short reaction times and low temperatures,” Dr Zavabeti says.

Project leader FLEET CI Prof Kourosh Kalantar-zadeh (UNSW, RMIT) says the liquid-metal chemistry used in the process enabled differently shaped nanostructures to be grown, either as atomically-thin sheets or nanofibrous structures.

“Growing these materials conventionally is power intensive, requires high temperatures and extensive processing times and uses toxic metals. Liquid-metal chemistry avoids all these issues so it’s an outstanding alternative.”

Water is added to a drop of a liquid metal. The skin is delaminated by hydrogen bubbles to form 2D sheets in the water, forming a hydrogel.

Experiments showed the nanofilter was efficient at removing lead from water that had been contaminated

at over 13 times safe drinking levels, and was highly effective in separating oil from water.

The process generates no waste and requires just aluminium and water, with the liquid metals reused for each new batch of nanostructures.

The study was published in *Advanced Functional Materials* in September 2018, vol. 28 (see publication 58, p106).



More at [FLEET.org.au/nano-filter](https://www.fleet.org.au/nano-filter)

COLLABORATING FLEET PERSONNEL:

- Research Fellow Ali Zavabeti (RMIT)
- Alumnus Isabela Alves de Castro (now at Alcoa)
- Associate Investigator Jian-zhen Ou (RMIT)
- Alumnus Ben Carey (now at University of Munster)
- Associate Investigator Torben Daeneke (RMIT)
- Chief Investigator Kourosh Kalantar-zadeh (UNSW/RMIT)



This new nanofilter could be a cheap and ultra-fast solution to the problem of dirty water.

Dr Ali Zavabeti
FLEET Research Fellow,
RMIT





FLEET Research Fellow Feixiang Xiang (UNSW) studies 2D materials in collaboration with Centre colleagues at UOW.



WHY 2D? FINDING THE 2D-3D TRANSITION POINT

Measuring thickness-dependent electronic properties

A FLEET UNSW/Wollongong collaboration found a key transition point from three-dimensional (3D) to two-dimensional (2D) properties in 2018.

2D materials are useful for FLEET because constraining the movement of charge carriers (such as electrons) to two dimensions unlocks unusual quantum properties and useful electronic properties.

In essence, this means restricting electron movement to a range from a few nanometres to a few hundred nanometres.

Much can be learned by observing precisely at what thickness such new quantum effects emerge.

A 2018 FLEET study found this precise transition point in the promising material tungsten ditelluride (WTe_2) to be around 20 nanometres (that is, 20 millionths of a millimetre).

FLEET Research Fellow Dr Feixiang Xiang prepared thin WTe_2 films of different thickness, cleaved from a single high-purity crystal.

After studying WTe_2 thin films at the University of Wollongong (UOW), Dr Xiang used UNSW laboratories to

fabricate the devices from thin-film samples and perform transport measurements using ultra-low-temperature and high-magnetic-field measurement facilities.

Quantum oscillation measurements performed in FLEET CI Prof Alex Hamilton's lab at UNSW showed how the material's band structure changed with decreasing thickness, and indicated a 3D-2D crossover when the sample thickness was reduced below 26 nm.

"This finding was very important," says Dr Xiang, who led the study at both UOW and UNSW, "because it pins down two critical length scales of the thickness-dependent electronic structure in WTe_2 thin films".

Analysis indicated that the area of Fermi pockets decreases in thinner samples, suggesting the overlap between the conduction band and valence band is becoming smaller. This not only explains the measured decrease of carrier density in a thinner sample, it suggests it is possible to open a bandgap and realise the 2D topological insulator in even thin samples, as has been predicted by theory, and observed in related compounds.

Constraining the movement of charge carriers to two dimensions results in very different electronic

properties compared to 3D 'bulk' materials. This also suggests that additional different physical properties could happen at the monolayer limit – the transition point from 3D to 2D.



This addresses FLEET milestone 11; **see p93.**

The study was published in *Physical Review B* in July 2018, vol. 98 (**see publication 51, p106**).



[More at FLEET.org.au/2D-transition](https://fleet.org.au/2D-transition)

COLLABORATING FLEET PERSONNEL:

- Research Fellow Feixiang Xiang (UNSW)
- Chief Investigator Oleh Klochan (UNSW)
- Chief Investigator Alex Hamilton (UNSW)
- Chief Investigator Xiaolin Wang (UOW)

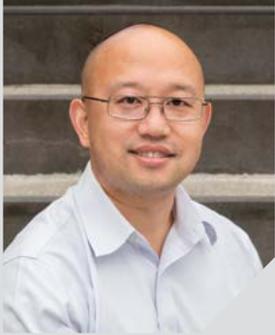


I love working in FLEET... It's a broad scientific community with vastly different interests. This allows the bouncing around of some very crazy ideas.

Dr Oleh Klochan

FLEET Chief Investigator,
UNSW





PROF LAN WANG

**Leader,
Enabling technology B**

RMIT University

"FLEET is a great platform from which to establish collaborations with local and international researchers, allowing us to share ideas and work together."

Expertise: Low-temperature and high-magnetic field electron and spin transport; topological insulators; magnetic materials; spintronic and magneto-electronic devices; device fabrication; growth of single crystals, thin films and nanostructures

Research outputs: 100+ papers, 2600+ citations, h-index 29



ENABLING TECHNOLOGY B: NANO-DEVICE FABRICATION

FLEET's research sits at the very boundary of what is possible in condensed-matter physics. At the nano scale, nanofabrication of functioning devices will be key to the Centre's success.

Specialised techniques are needed to integrate novel atomically-thin, two-dimensional (2D) materials into high-quality, high-performance nanodevices.

For example, atomically-thin topological insulators will need to be integrated with electrical gates to realise topological transistors. And atomically-thin semiconductors must be integrated with optical cavities to realise exciton-polariton condensate devices.

Nano-device fabrication and characterisation links many of FLEET's groups and nodes. Some groups bring expertise in device fabrication, while other groups are stronger in device characterisation.

FLEET brings together Australian strength in microfabrication and nanofabrication with world-leading expertise in van der Waals (vdW) heterostructure fabrication to build the capacity for advanced atomically-thin device fabrication.



I love this research area because of the new ideas and new physics. This year we have got more ambitious in our research, and more motivated about our results.

Cheng Tan
FLEET PhD student,
RMIT



IN 2019, FLEET WILL:

- Fabricate devices based on vdW heterostructures as a basis for quantum spin Hall effect (QSHE), quantum anomalous Hall effect (QAHE) and bi-layer exciton transistors
- Expand large-scale synthesis of 2D materials towards thin nanosheets with desired electrical, topological and magnetic properties
- Fabricate high-quality distributed Bragg reflector (DBR) microcavities.

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

- Refined glove box fabrication of vdW heterostructures
- Further developed liquid-metal synthesis of 2D materials, broadening the accessible range of 2D materials
- Demonstrated patterning of 2D electron gases, a platform to realise quantum spin Hall systems in oxide heterostructures
- Fabricated high-quality DBR microcavities, opening way to exciton-polariton condensation.

DEFINITIONS

bandgap The energy gap that defines whether a material is a conductor, insulator or semiconductor; a large bandgap is required for a material to still be topological at room temperature

distributed Bragg reflector (DBR) microcavity Layered, di-electric mirror used to reflect a particular wavelength

glove box Sealed container allowing manipulation within a controlled atmosphere via gloves

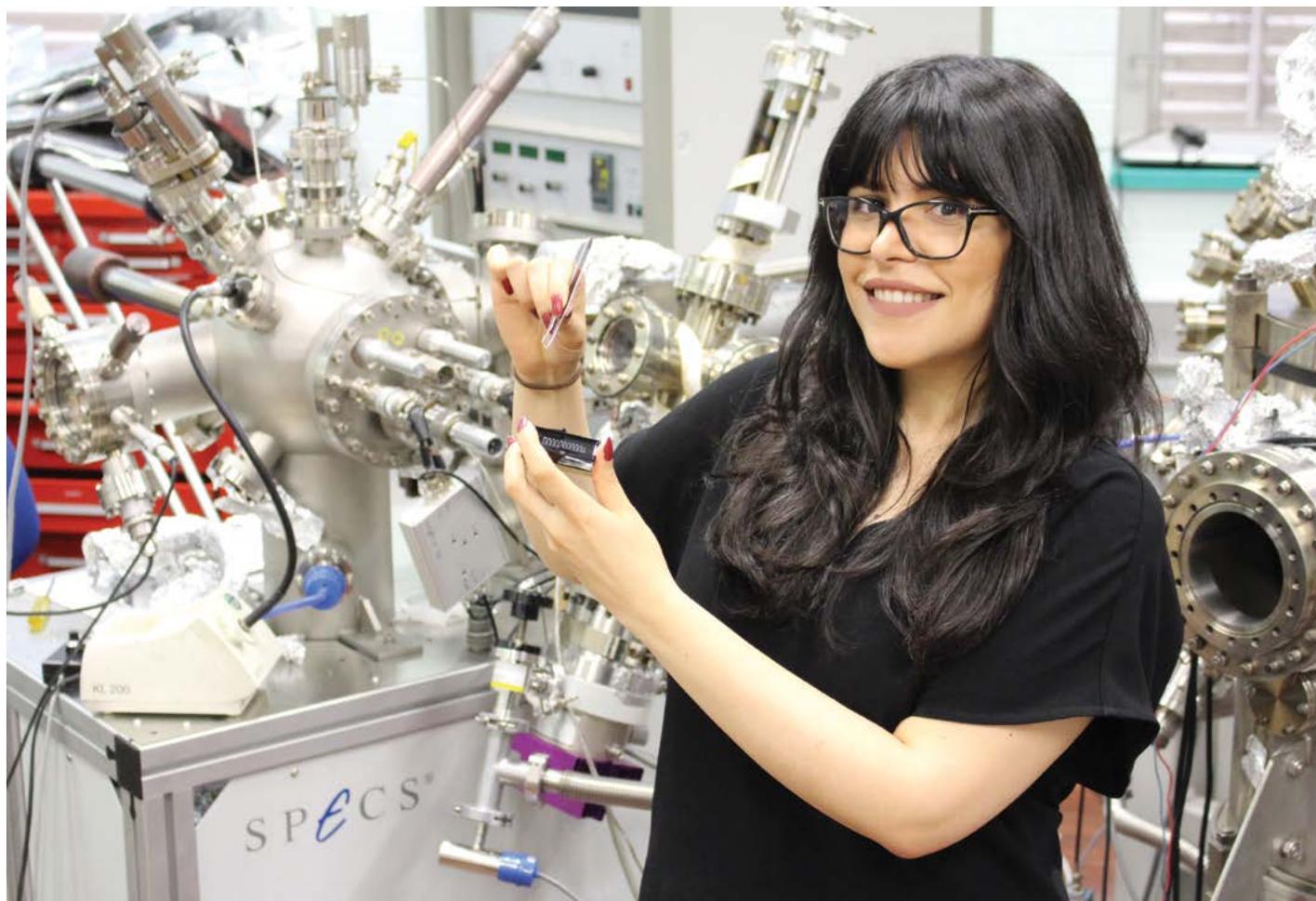
heterostructure A structure in which two dissimilar materials are brought together at a controlled interface

quantum spin Hall effect (QSHE) The spin-orbit interaction driven effect that gives a non-magnetic material conducting edges, which can carry current without resistance, as long as no magnetic disorder is present

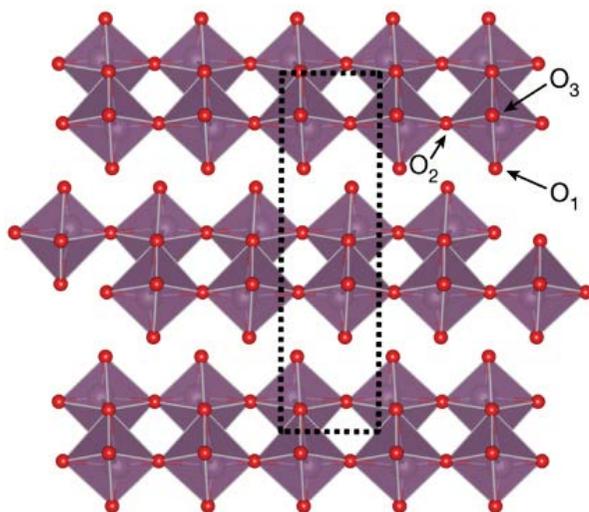
quantum anomalous Hall effect (QAHE) A magnetic version of the QSHE (above), in which conducting edges carry currents in only one direction, and are completely without resistance

van der Waals (vdW) material A material naturally made of 2D layers, held together by weak van der Waals forces

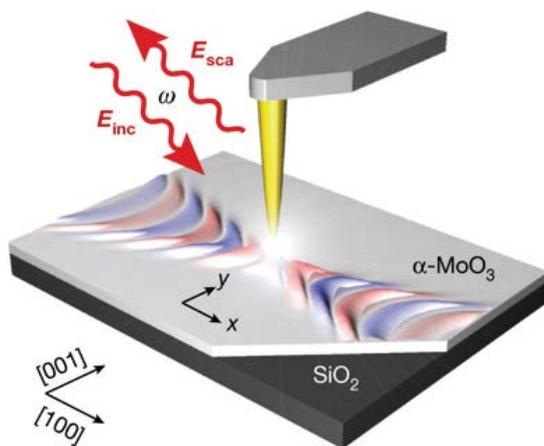
van der Waals (vdW) heterostructure A structure made by stacking layers of different van der Waals materials



FLEET Research Fellow Golrokh Akhgar's expertise in 2D vdW heterostructures bridges Research theme 1 and Enabling technology B.



The structure of molybdenum trioxide is distorted by vdW interactions.



Near-field optical microscopy is a new method allowing improved imagery of polaritons.



LONG-LIVED 'SQUEEZED' NANOLIGHT DISCOVERED IN 2D MATERIAL

Quantum breakthrough could deliver new ultra-low-energy electronics and communications technology

An international collaboration led by FLEET's A/Prof Qiaoliang Bao (Monash University) used 'squeezed' light to make a significant quantum breakthrough.

In a world-first, the team observed a difference in the physical and mechanical properties of polaritons moving along the surface of a van der Waals (vdW) material in different directions.

Polaritons are a 'hybrid' particle, which can trap and manipulate light within micrometre-scale structures, while vdW materials are composed of multiple layers of two-dimensional (2D) structures.

The study found that squeezed light (nanolight) propagates only in specific directions along thin slabs of 2D molybdenum trioxide.

This nanolight also lives for an exceptionally long time, and thus could find applications in signal processing, sensing or heat management at the nanoscale.

Squeezing (confining) light to such a small size has been a major goal in nanophotonics for many years.

A successful strategy has been the use of polaritons, which are electromagnetic waves resulting from the coupling of light and matter. Particularly strong light squeezing can be achieved with polaritons at infrared frequencies in certain 2D materials.

However, polaritons in other materials have always been found to propagate along all directions of the material surface, thereby losing energy quite fast and limiting their usefulness.

Recently, it was predicted that polaritons could propagate 'anisotropically' along the surface of 2D materials (ie, their propagation was different in different directions).

In this case, the velocity and wavelength of the polaritons strongly depend on the direction in which they propagate. This property can lead to highly-directional polariton propagation in the form of nanoscale confined rays, which could find future applications in the fields of sensing, thermal heat management or maybe even quantum computing.

In addition to directional propagation, the study also revealed that the polaritons in this test material can have an extraordinarily long lifetime. Light seems to take a nanoscale 'highway', travelling in some directions with almost no obstacles. Polaritons were observed to live 40 times longer than the best similar measurements in graphene.

Researchers used a new microscope technique known as near-field optical microscopy, which has emerged alongside novel vdW materials over the past few years, to allow imaging of a variety of unique and even unexpected polaritons.

The current work is just the beginning of a series of studies focused on directional control and manipulation of light with the help of ultra-low-loss polaritons at the nanoscale. This work could benefit the development of more efficient nanophotonic devices for optical sensing and signal processing or thermal heat management.

Within FLEET, A/Prof Bao investigates waveguide-coupled 2D semiconductors and plasmon-coupled 2D materials and devices, focusing on the effect of confined-space light-matter interactions on the transport of electrons or other quasi-particles such as polaritons.



This addresses FLEET milestone 1.2; see p93.

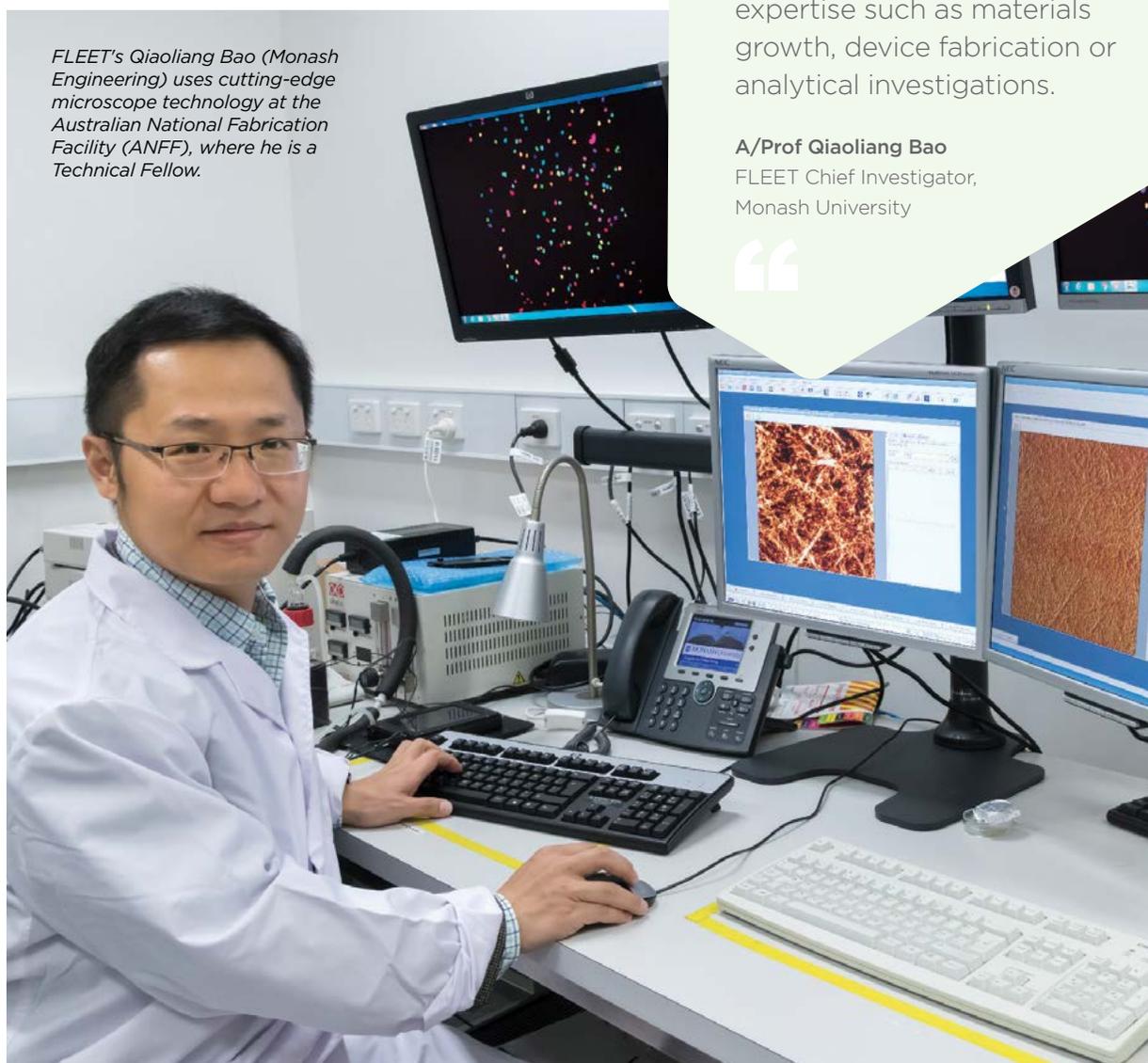
The study was published in *Nature* in October 2018, vol. 562 (see publication 26, p105).



[More at FLEET.org.au/polariton-breakthrough](https://www.fleet.org.au/polariton-breakthrough)

COLLABORATING FLEET PERSONNEL:

- Research Fellow Zhigao Dai (Monash)
- Alumnus Yupeng Zhang (now at Shenzhen University)
- Chief Investigator Kourosh Kalantar-zadeh (UNSW/RMIT)
- Chief Investigator Qiaoliang Bao (Monash)



FLEET's Qiaoliang Bao (Monash Engineering) uses cutting-edge microscope technology at the Australian National Fabrication Facility (ANFF), where he is a Technical Fellow.



Collaboration with different research groups is crucial to develop and further improve our capabilities, incorporating new areas of expertise such as materials growth, device fabrication or analytical investigations.

A/Prof Qiaoliang Bao
FLEET Chief Investigator,
Monash University





*PhD student Nitu Syed
and FLEET AI Dr Torben
Daeneke (RMIT).*



PUSHING PRINT ON LARGE-SCALE PIEZOELECTRICS

First ever large-scale 2D surface deposition of piezoelectric material – this simple, inexpensive technique opens new fields for piezo-sensors and energy harvesting

In 2018, FLEET researchers developed a revolutionary method to ‘print’ large-scale sheets of two-dimensional (2D) piezoelectric material, opening up new opportunities for piezo-sensors and energy harvesting.

Piezoelectric materials produce a small voltage when put under stress, and form the key component of ultra-sensitive pressure sensors, such as the motion-detectors in smartphones.

Importantly, this new, inexpensive fabrication process allows piezoelectric components to be directly integrated onto silicon chips, which has not previously been possible. This will significantly reduce manufacturing costs.

Now, FLEET researchers at RMIT University have demonstrated a method to produce large-scale 2D gallium phosphate sheets that allows this material to be formed at large scales in low-cost, low-temperature manufacturing processes onto silicon substrates, or any other surface.

The material used, gallium phosphate (GaPO_4), is particularly useful in high temperatures or other harsh environments.

The revolutionary new method allows easy, inexpensive growth of large-area (several centimetres), wide-bandgap, 2D GaPO₄ nanosheets.

The new process is simple, scalable, low temperature and cost-effective, significantly expanding the range of materials available to industry at such scales and quality.

This simple, industry-compatible procedure to print large-surface-area 2D piezoelectric films onto any substrate offers tremendous opportunities for the development of piezo-sensors and energy harvesters.

Piezoelectric materials can convert applied mechanical force or strain into electrical energy. Such materials form the basis of sound and pressure sensors, embedded devices that are powered by vibration or bending, and even the simple 'piezo' lighter used for gas BBQs and stovetops.

Piezoelectric materials can also take advantage of the small voltages generated by tiny mechanical displacement, vibration, bending or stretching to power miniaturised devices.

Test materials were synthesised in RMIT's Micro Nano Research Facility (MNRF).

 This addresses FLEET milestone 1.1; see p93.

The study was published in *Nature Communications* in September 2018, vol. 9 (see publication 40, p105).

 [More at FLEET.org.au/piezoelectric](https://www.fleet.org.au/piezoelectric)



These types of discoveries show that the benefits of discovery-based research extend beyond FLEET's focused objectives, and will have impacts in a diverse range of fields.

Prof Michael Fuhrer
FLEET Director



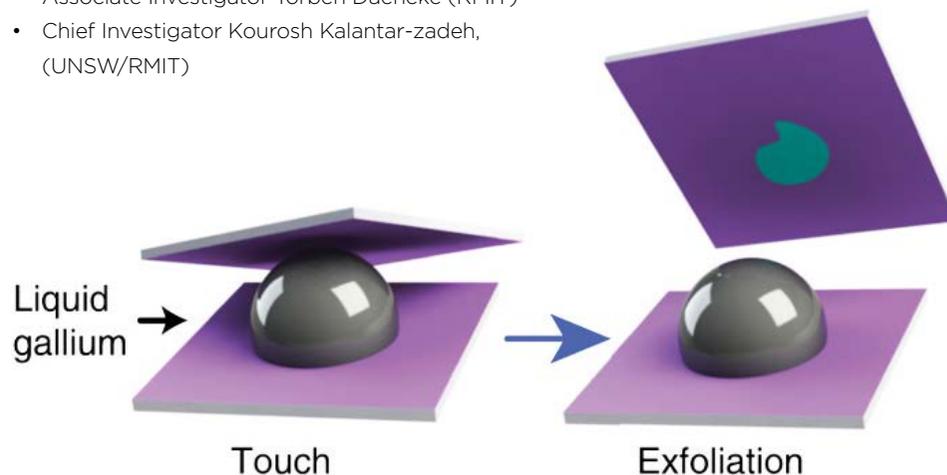
As so often in science, this work builds on past successes. We adopted the liquid-metal material deposition technique we developed recently to create the 2D films.

Dr Torben Daeneke
FLEET Scientific Associate Investigator,
RMIT



COLLABORATING FLEET PERSONNEL:

- Research Fellow Ali Zavabeti (RMIT)
- Associate Investigator Jian-zhen Ou (RMIT)
- Alumnus Ben Carey (now at University of Munster)
- Associate Investigator Torben Daeneke (RMIT)
- Chief Investigator Kouros Kalantar-zadeh, (UNSW/RMIT)



FLEET has developed new, inexpensive methods for fabrication of useful 2D materials using liquid metals such as gallium.



FLEET Research Fellow Dr Sam Bladwell (UNSW) and visiting AI A/Prof Shaffique Adams (National University of Singapore).

03 COLLABORATE

FLEET draws on leading national and international experts to fulfil the Centre's mission.

NEW RESEARCH
COLLABORATING
ORGANISATIONS
ESTABLISHED



NEW ORGANISATION
LINKS FOR TRAINING
AND OUTREACH
ESTABLISHED

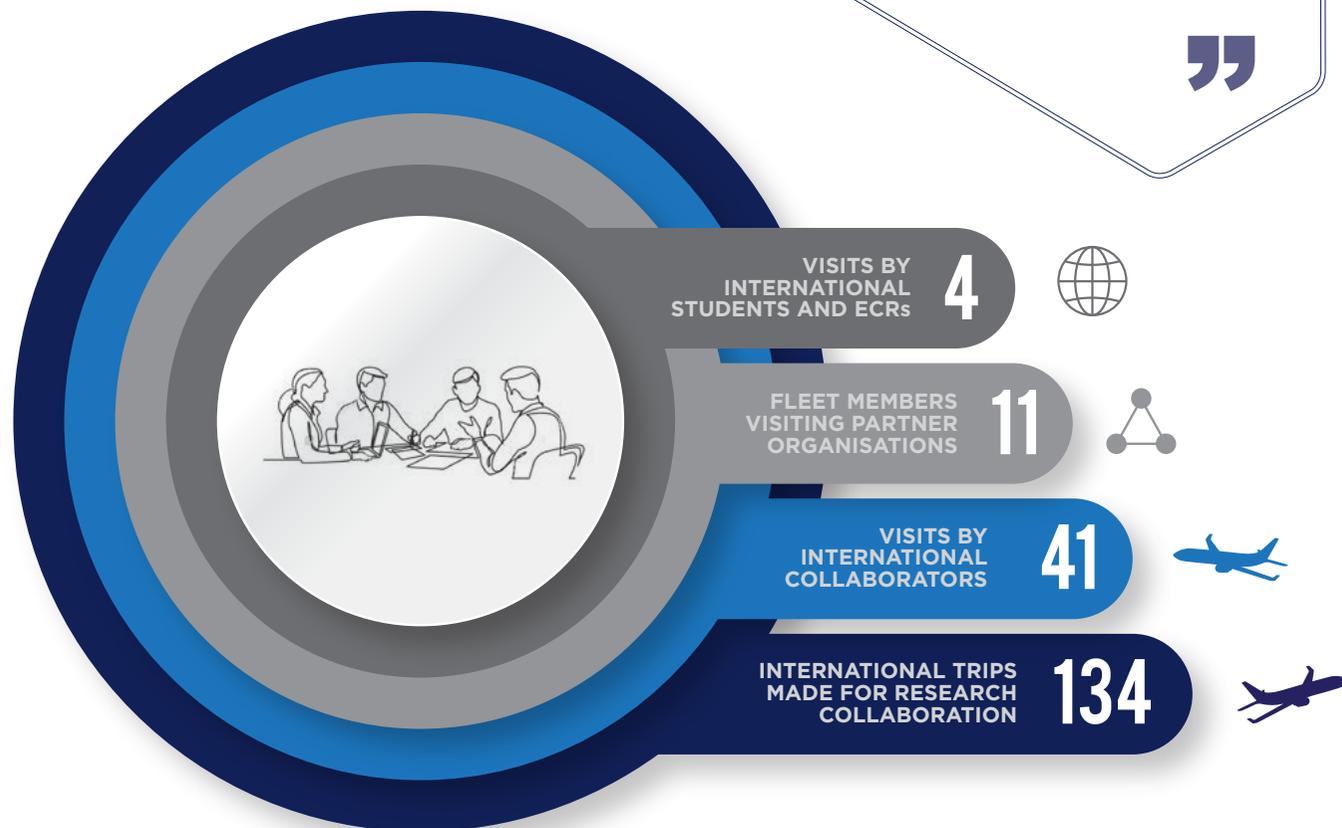


END-USER
RELATIONSHIPS
ESTABLISHED



FLEET has transformed my scientific career. Working and collaborating and exchanging ideas with diverse people within FLEET motivates my research work and as I continue in FLEET I will continue to learn and grasp more knowledge.

Dr Shilpa Sanwani
FLEET Research Fellow,
Swinburne



NEW RESEARCH PARTNERS

In 2018, FLEET added three new partner organisations and five new Partner Investigators, expanding on existing research relationships and leveraging shared expertise. These new agreements bring FLEET's Australian and international partners to 16 (see chart below).



Wroclaw University of Science and Technology (WUST) is Poland's top-ranked new-technology university, excelling in computer science, electronics and material science. FLEET's new Partner Investigator Prof Grzegorz Sek, who specialises in nanophotonics, two-dimensional (2D) materials and exciton-polariton condensation, will work closely with FLEET CI Prof Ostrovskaya (ANU).



The Beijing Computational Science Research Center (CSRC) in China is a multidisciplinary, fundamental-research organisation undertaking computational science and condensed-matter research. FLEET's new Partner Investigator, CSRC Director Prof Hai-Qing Lin, coordinates collaborations with FLEET's Dr Dimi Culcer (UNSW), developing advanced new theoretical and computational techniques for studying topological phenomena.



The University of Camerino in Italy has had a dynamic and successful research partnership with FLEET researchers, now formalised via a partnership agreement. The University's Prof Andrea Perali and Prof David Neilson join FLEET as new Partner Investigators, studying the theory of exciton superfluids with FLEET CI Prof Alex Hamilton (UNSW) (see [exciton case study p30](#)).



FLEET's fruitful relationship with **Tsinghua University** in Beijing, China, has expanded, with the Centre welcoming two new Partner Investigators to lead research collaborations. Prof Shuyun Zhou studies the electronic structure of novel 2D materials and heterostructures using advanced electron spectroscopic tools, and will work closely with Prof Michael Fuhrer (Monash University) on 2D deposition. Prof Pu Yu studies emergent phenomena at the interface of correlated electron systems and will work closely with Profs Xiaolin Wang (UOW) and Nagy Valanoor (UNSW) on ferroelectrics.

FLEET Director Michael Fuhrer featured in an online game to engage the public with sustainable-materials science.

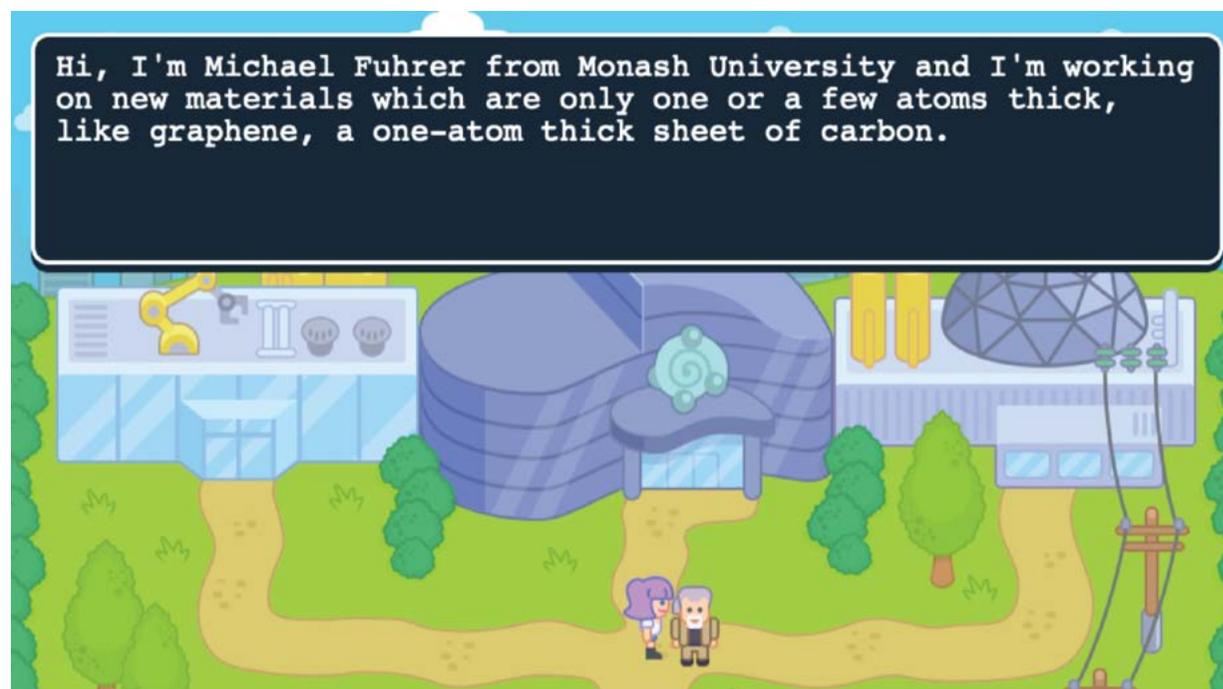
EXPLORING POTENTIAL LINKAGES: NEW ZEALAND'S MACDIARMID INSTITUTE

In 2018, FLEET strengthened its links with leading New Zealand nanotechnologists via the **MacDiarmid Institute**, the country's leading nanotechnology and materials research organisation.

FLEET Director Prof Michael Fuhrer spoke at Materialise, the sustainable materials science event hosted by the Institute, introducing the NZ science

community and media to issues around information and communication technology (ICT) energy use and ultra-low-energy electronics.

In return, five senior MacDiarmid researchers spoke at the FLEET annual workshop and at ICON-2DMat, introducing all FLEET members to leading nanotechnology and beyond-CMOS electronics research.



Scientific journal editorial panel, ICON-2DMat.



HOSTING INTERNATIONAL 2D MATERIALS CONFERENCE

FLEET hosted the International Conference on Two-Dimensional Materials and Technologies (ICON-2DMat) in Melbourne in December 2018.

This was the first time ICON-2DMat had been held in Australia, and with around 300 international and Australian delegates attending, it was an opportunity to showcase the strength of atomically-thin materials research in Australia.

Attendance at the international conferences on 2D materials is growing, reflecting rising interest in the useful electronic, opto-electronic and material properties of atomically-thin materials.

FLEET Director Prof Michael Fuhrer.



10-13 Dec 2018
 4TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
 ON TWO-DIMENSIONAL MATERIALS
 AND TECHNOLOGIES
ICON-2DMAT 2018
 MELBOURNE CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE, MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA

ICON-2DMat 2018 connected FLEET and other leading Australian 2D scientists with top international experts to discuss the latest research and emerging applications.

The international and Australian delegates enjoyed six plenary talks, 16 keynote talks, 148 oral presentations and over 90 poster presentations.

Free, on-site childcare was provided, paid for by the conference's sponsors and demonstrating FLEET's commitment to leadership in family-friendly conferences (see p63).

 More information FLEET.org.au/ICON2DMAT



Recognising excellence, ECR poster sessions and networking, ICON-2DMat.





Research seminars present the latest science to relevant researchers, fostering valuable discussions and sparking future collaborations.

“

FLEET seminars have provided opportunities to share ideas with FLEET members, collaborators and industry figures from outside of our immediate research group.

Dr Karina Hudson
FLEET Research Fellow,
UNSW

”

HOSTING RESEARCH SEMINARS

In 2018 FLEET began a series of live-streamed seminars to help share research results across the Centre, keep members informed on latest FLEET research, and enhance inter-node collaboration. Early-career researchers presenting the seminars gain valuable presentation experience, and benefit from feedback on their research from diverse Centre members.

These seminars also provide an opportunity for regular get-togethers in each node, based around baked goods and coffees. Beginning in late 2018, FLEET live-streamed seminars have been presented by:

- Dr David Colas (University of Queensland)
- Dr Carlos Kuhn (Swinburne)
- Dr Mark Edmonds (Monash).

The 26 research seminars that FLEET hosted by visiting researchers at Monash and UNSW (see image to the left), exposed members and affiliates to diverse research from around the world. Visiting seminar researchers discovered shared approaches with FLEET and also discussed future collaborations, in some cases leading to formal partnerships, such as a joint US grant, co-supervision of a PhD student, and two new Partner Investigators at Tsinghua University ([see New research partners, p54-55](#)).

<p>FLEET RESEARCH SEMINAR <i>Topological Defects in Ferroelectrics and Multiferroics</i> LAURENT BELLAÏCHE Department of Physics, University of Arkansas Monday 5 February 2018 11:00AM-12:00midday G30, New Horizons Centre, Monash</p>	<p>FLEET RESEARCH SEMINAR <i>Two-dimensional materials and hetero-structures for new topological phases and tailored electronic structures</i> SHUYUN ZHOU Department of Physics, Tsinghua University Tuesday 6 February 2018 11:00AM-12:00midday G30, New Horizons Centre, Monash</p>	<p>FLEET RESEARCH SEMINAR <i>Electronic properties and SPM characterization of transition metal dichalcogenides</i> BLANCA BIEL University of Geneva Wednesday 14 March 2018 11:00AM-12:00midday G30, New Horizons Centre, Monash</p>	<p>FLEET INFORMATION SEMINAR TALL POPPY SCIENCE AWARDS CAMILLE THOMSON Department of Physics and Astronomy Wednesday 21 March 2018 12:55-13:00 Room 87, 10 College Walk, Monash</p>
<p>FLEET RESEARCH SEMINAR <i>Molecular nanoarchitectures from on-surface reactions and assembly</i> JENNIFER MACLEOD Queensland University of Technology</p>	<p>FLEET RESEARCH SEMINAR <i>Graphene as playground for molecules: from physisorption to catalysis</i> AMADEO L. VÁZQUEZ DE PARGA Department of Physics and Applied Materials Research Tuesday 8 May 2018 11:00AM-12:00midday G30, New Horizons Centre, Monash</p>	<p>SPA & FLEET COLLOQUIUM <i>On why strongly interacting Dirac fermions in two dimensions appear weakly interacting</i> SHAFFIQUE ADAM Yee Kee Centre, National University of Singapore</p>	<p>FLEET RESEARCH SEMINAR <i>SOFT X-RAY SPECTROSCOPY OF MAGNETIC MATERIALS FOR SPINTRONICS</i> ATSUSHI FUJIMORI Department of Physics, University of Tokyo Wednesday 8 August 2018 11:00-12:00 G30, New Horizons Centre, Monash</p>
<p>FLEET & MCATM RESEARCH SEMINAR <i>Elemental 2D Materials Beyond Graphene</i> YI DU IBM E. A.IME, University of Wollongong</p>	<p>FLEET SEMINAR <i>High-field magnetic resonance spectroscopies on spin-correlated quantum matter</i> VLADISLAV KATAEV Institute for Space and Astronautical Research, RW Aachen</p>	<p>FLEET RESEARCH SEMINAR <i>Surface electron microscopy and its applications on 2D materials</i> WEN-XIN TANG Changqing University</p>	<p>FLEET SEMINAR <i>Emergent superconductivity in few-layer stanene and superconductor-insulator transitions in BSCCO flakes.</i> DING ZHANG Tsinghua University, Beijing, China</p>
<p>FLEET SEMINAR <i>Optoelectronic functionalities in transition-metal dichalcogenides.</i> YIJIN ZHANG Max Planck Institute for Solid State Research, Stuttgart, Germany</p>	<p>FLEET SEMINAR <i>Controlling hole spin qubits in quantum dots and quantum dot molecules with electric and magnetic fields</i> GARNETT W. BRYANT National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD, USA</p>	<p>FLEET RESEARCH SEMINAR <i>Semiconductor holes: More spin for your buck</i> ALEX HAMILTON School of Physics, University of New South Wales Monday 26 November 2018 2:00PM-3:00PM G29, New Horizons Centre, Monash</p>	<p>FLEET RESEARCH SEMINAR <i>Strain enhancement of Kondo effect in Graphene</i> NANCY SANDLER Ohio University</p>



See [FLEET.org.au/annual-reports](https://www.fleet.org.au/annual-reports) for list of workshops and seminars

FLEET has an increasingly visible presence in Australian science.

Prof Jared Cole
FLEET Chief Investigator,
RMIT

PROFESSIONAL COLLABORATIONS

In 2018, FLEET built on an existing strong relationship with the Australian Institute of Physics (AIP), the country's leading body for physics advocacy and support.

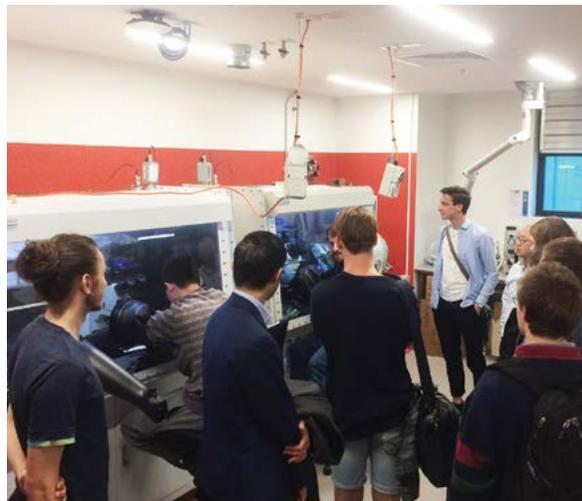
With the AIP this year, the Centre:

- Hosted a members' briefing and tour of FLEET labs at RMIT
- Ran two VicPhysics Girls in Physics breakfasts
- Assisted with Physics in the Pub in Melbourne and Brisbane
- Presented the annual AIP Nobel Lecture, given by Prof Kris Helmerson (Monash) who spoke on optical tweezers.

FLEET continues to build links with other science organisations within Australia, for example:

- Arranging co-sponsorship of the national science-communication conference by 11 ARC Centres of Excellence
- Participating in Victorian ARC Centres and Hubs workshop to share best practice and develop networks
- Working with the ARC Centre for Gravitational Waves (OzGrav) to develop a virtual reality outreach tool
- Operating lab tours with the Monash Tech School, introducing Year 8 students to science [\(see p75\)](#).

Public events have provided valuable opportunities for collaborations with schools, professional bodies and other ARC Centres of Excellence.





04
EQUITY

PhD student Vivasha Govinden and Research Fellow Dr Peggy Qi Zhang study ferroelectric materials at UNSW.

FLEET is breaking boundaries to improve gender-quity in science.



Women are under-represented in research, particularly in physics. In this regard FLEET is no exception. We are taking steps to improve this.

Our motivation is not only fairness. We also know that diverse teams do better science. By improving our performance with respect to gender-equity and diversity, we are not only doing what's right and fair, we will also be creating a more effective research team.

FLEET aims to achieve 30% women researchers across the Centre by 2021. In its second year, FLEET has exceeded the 2018 target of 15% women higher degree by research students (HDRs) and early-career researchers (ECRs), with 27% and 16%, respectively. This brings the current proportion of women across the Centre to 19%.

But this is just a starting point. In particular the Centre must increase the representation of women in more-senior roles.

FLEET's recruitment to date has drawn from the existing physics pool, which unfortunately has a relatively low percentage of women. FLEET's Women in FLEET Fellowships (see case study below) will allow the Centre to begin to increase the percentage of women at ECR level beyond the average in physics.

Redressing historical disadvantages for women in physics provides many complex challenges, and our actions must cut across all of FLEET's strategies and policies.

DID YOU KNOW...

FLEET has people of 24 different nationalities and cultural backgrounds, across all levels of the Centre.

IN 2018, FLEET HAS:

- Targeted outreach to girls in schools to improve their future participation in science
- Analysed equity policies at all participating organisations to identify best practice
- Developed equity guidelines for all FLEET-supported events
- Identified internal cultural challenges via a comprehensive, Centre-wide survey (see below)
- Submitted recommendations to Australia's 'Women in STEM' Decadal Plan
- Continued to foster inclusive workplace practices such as part-time work, flexible hours and family-friendly meeting times.

IN 2019, FLEET WILL:

- Create more career support opportunities for women at ECR level
- Implement straightforward feedback systems, for when exclusivity or discrimination occurs
- Improve cultural awareness and understanding of equity issues via seminars and training
- Make FLEET events even more friendly for parents of young children
- Create more mentoring opportunities for women and minority groups in FLEET
- Offer industry training, internships and mentoring opportunities for careers outside of academia.

 [More at FLEET.org.au/equity](https://fleet.org.au/equity)

CULTURAL CHALLENGES AND MEMBERS' SURVEY

Improving the situation of women in physics carries complex cultural challenges. We must be sensitive to potential challenges of resistance and backlash.

As a first step in this direction, in 2018 FLEET conducted a comprehensive cultural survey of members to determine attitudes to gender equity.

The anonymous, optional survey was answered by a third of members, and revealed that:

- Over 90% value equity and diversity
- Over 80% are aware of FLEET equity policies and initiatives
- Over 80% say their workplace is inclusive and respectful
- Over 70% participate in FLEET equity initiatives.

We found that discrimination and harassment are rare within the Centre and that, in most cases, complaints were resolved in an appropriate manner.

Negative attitudes to equity interventions have been documented across Australia, and FLEET has proven to be no exception. While the majority of members strongly support our equity measures, the survey also revealed some discomfort with initiatives created to support women in science, in particular with the Women in FLEET recruitment initiative.

An understanding of members' attitudes will allow FLEET to frame equity initiatives in a way that maximises the chances of success. We must ensure that all members understand what we are doing and why, and are empowered to speak up about difficulties.

In an environment where initiatives aiming to get girls into STEM outnumber practical initiatives to keep women in science careers, the Women in FLEET fellowship is a refreshing initiative addressing much-needed structural change.

A/Prof Nicola Gaston

Co-Director, MacDiarmid Institute NZ

IN 2019, FLEET WILL:

- Assist members' understanding of their peers via cultural awareness training
- Educate FLEET members on equity and diversity issues using facts and high-quality studies
- Avoid demonising behaviours or resorting to emotional arguments, both of which prompt push-back
- Highlight benefits of diversity and of a family-friendly workplace to all employees
- Encourage men to be champions of change, reducing the 'burden of expectations' on their female colleagues
- Keep listening.

Welcoming families to the FLEET Annual Workshop.



SHIFTING THE DIAL: WOMEN IN FLEET FELLOWSHIPS

FLEET's recruitment to date has drawn from the existing physics pool, which (along with related fields such as engineering and material science) unfortunately features a relatively low percentage of women.

Women in FLEET Fellowships will allow the Centre to begin to increase the percentage of women above the average in these fields.

The Fellowships also allow for improved flexibility in the location and type of position on offer. FLEET's previous recruitments have been highly-focused research roles with specific expertise criteria, which has resulted in maintaining 'status quo' in gender balance.

The new Fellowships target early-career researchers who identify as female and have research interests aligning with any research areas within FLEET, giving applicants the choice to nominate investigators they want to work with. This broader search will allow FLEET





The logistical complexity of the recruitment process across all FLEET nodes was a huge challenge, but it was exciting to do something radically new in the area of gender equity.

Elena Ostrovskaya
Chair, FLEET Equity and Diversity Committee



to find excellent researchers who may have been missed in previous, narrowly-targeted searches.

Although it sounds simple, these Fellowships faced significant challenges in order to work with equity and recruiting policies across all FLEET member universities.

The end result has been two Women in FLEET Fellowships being offered for appointment in early 2019. Our first two Women in FLEET Fellows could be experimental or theoretical, and physicists, chemists or engineers, located at any of five universities. The flexibility of offering whichever field suits the best applicants available allows the widest choice of applicants, ensuring we will hire the best possible candidates.

FLEET received almost 70 applications and is currently interviewing candidates. A very large selection committee (seven members) for a Research Fellow position ensures representation across all FLEET themes and nodes.



FAMILY FRIENDLY WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

FLEET endeavours to lead change within the Australian science community: we believe that all conferences and workshops must work for researchers with families, rather than the other way around.

At FLEET's annual workshops (see p86), families and partners are welcomed to all meals and social events, and the Centre provided free on-site childcare for all delegates.

Free on-site childcare was also provided at the international conference ICON-2DMat hosted by FLEET in 2018 (see p56). Between the two events, 26 children were cared for, allowing their parents to participate fully in lectures and seminars.

Involving families and children at FLEET's workshops has transformed these events. In particular, the presence of children at scientific poster sessions and social events created a unique and enjoyable atmosphere. FLEET's annual workshop this year included 39 partners and family members.

As well as ensuring that FLEET's own events are family-friendly and supportive of diversity, the Centre has decided that events hosted or sponsored by the Centre must be similarly supportive. To that end, FLEET has set equity guidelines for all supported events: FLEET will only fund events that consider equity and diversity in their speaker selection, family-friendly policies and assistance, and overall event organisation. See the Equity & Diversity Committee (p96).



The family-friendly environment at FLEET's annual workshop was unprecedented – I've not seen this at any other scientific meetings.

Luigi Colombo,
FLEET Advisory Committee





05 EDUCATION

*Training early-career researchers
at FLEET annual workshop.*

FLEET is developing
future Australian
science leaders, and
preparing them
for success.

RESEARCH WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES ORGANISED



RESEARCH SEMINARS HELD



FLEET-WIDE, LIVE-STREAMED SEMINARS



RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS



OUTREACH ACTIVITIES INVOLVING FLEET MEMBERS



MENTORING PROGRAMS



FLEET provides me with access to a broad network with diverse scientific know-how, from fundamental research all the way to devices and applications.

Dr Agustin Schiffrin

FLEET Chief Investigator, Monash



BUILDING FUTURE SCIENCE LEADERS: EDUCATION AT FLEET

FLEET ensures that our young researchers are prepared for future success wherever their career takes them.

The Centre currently supports 42 higher degree by research (HDR) students and 49 early-career researchers (ECRs), with another 22 research affiliates working on FLEET projects and invited to Centre training, workshops and events.

All FLEET's students and young researchers receive excellent supervision, are exposed to opportunities for professional development and networking, and are supported in navigating diverse career pathways.

FLEET connects its researchers with internal and international networks; for example, offering research internship programs at partner organisations.



YouRforum

So you've got a PhD, now what's next?

Because most PhD graduates will not end up in academia, FLEET assists HDRs in developing a diverse skills base to maximise future career opportunities.

In 2018, FLEET's **YouRforum** (Young Researchers Forum) was expanded to UNSW, where a panel of science PhDs discussed career options for STEM PhD graduates and ECRs. Participants heard from nine academics, entrepreneurs, business development and research managers, who shared their career journeys and top tips on making the most of a PhD. **YouRforum** was an original initiative of the Monash Centre for Atomically Thin Materials.

Developing future skills, YouRforum early-career development training and panel, UNSW.



HIGHLIGHTS IN 2018

- Launching FLEET's mentoring programs
- Joining with the ARC Centre for Engineered Quantum Systems (EQUS) to run the Idea Factory ([see case study p67](#))
- Starting monthly FLEET-wide live-streamed seminars
- Contributing to the ANU summer school on topological physics ([see p68](#))
- Hosting *Nature*-paper writing workshop, at the FLEET annual workshop.

IN 2019, FLEET WILL:

- Improve ECRs' entrepreneurship and commercial skills
- Provide gender-equity and diversity training
- Provide opportunities for HDR students to visit other nodes' labs
- Continue building members' communication skills ([see p82](#))
- Grow and monitor FLEET's mentoring program
- Assist with the Canberra International Physics Summer School at ANU in January 2020
- Launch an internal FLEET grant program for ECRs aimed at developing new collaborations
- Launch Women in FLEET mentoring program.



FOSTERING HELPFUL RELATIONSHIPS: MENTORING AT FLEET

FLEET recognises that, no matter where they are in their career, many of our members would benefit from a mentor to help prepare them to take 'the next step'.

A mentor provides independent, thoughtful support and a sympathetic sounding board, and can help with practical or people issues, or in career planning.

2018 saw FLEET launch its mentoring programs, focusing on three different sectors: industry, academic and early-career researchers.

Thirty FLEET members have been matched with mentors, making connections both within the Centre and externally. The FLEET annual workshop provided an opportunity for a face-to-face meeting for many mentor-mentee pairs, and a number of useful collaborations have already come out of these relationships.

The program is flexible, covering mentoring relationships that are general and ongoing, as well as short-term arrangements targeted at a specific outcome – for example, obtaining a grant or getting promoted.

Learning works both ways in a good mentor-mentee relationship, and a number of FLEET members are building their own mentoring experience via mentees from outside the Centre.



My mentor and I have already had insightful conversations about translation of research to commercial products. I'm looking forward to more of these engaging conversations in the future.

Yonatan Ashlea Alava
FLEET PhD student, UNSW



PITCH PERFECT: THE IDEA FACTORY

FLEET has begun an ongoing partnership with the ARC Centre for Engineered Quantum Systems (EQUS) to run a yearly ECR workshop building skills in communication, methods for pitching and presenting science, and working collaboratively with others.

In between the teams' pitch preparation and delivery, formal training sessions included science communication, oral presentations and how to craft an engaging research pitch.

The Idea Factory challenged small, diverse teams of ECRs to develop and pitch a research proposal to a panel of judges.

The ability to explain a proposal's significance and



The Idea Factory taught me to pitch a project quickly and with impact (much more difficult than it sounds!) and to explain why I was 'the right person for the job' (a challenge, as we don't feel comfortable bragging).

Dr Antonija Grubisic-Cabo
FLEET research affiliate, Monash



innovation to a technically-competent but broad audience is a key skill for ECRs.

As well as developing these pitching and communication skills, the workshop focuses on collaboration. Each teams' mix of institutions and research areas, including theorists and experimentalists, gives participants additional challenge, and value. The ability to collaborate across traditional boundaries is key for future careers.

The Idea Factory develops necessary skills for a research career, whether in industry or academia, or wherever the future lies.

The Idea Factory is one of several successful collaborations with other ARC Centres run this year ([see p59](#)).



NETWORKING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT: TOPOLOGICAL SUMMER SCHOOL

Recognising the increasing importance of topological physics, FLEET helped run the 2018 Canberra International Physics Summer School on Topological Matter at ANU – a great opportunity for early-career Australian physicists to hear from leading experts from around the world.

Over 90 attendees discovered topological materials' applications to photonics, ultra-cold systems and quantum computation.

Nobel laureate Prof Duncan Haldane (Princeton University) was the headline presenter, describing the study of topological materials that saw him named co-recipient of the 2016 Nobel Prize in Physics.

FLEET's Elena Ostrovskaya (ANU) and Jeff Davis (Swinburne University) helped organise the summer school and a number of senior FLEET members gave presentations. FLEET also provided communications and marketing assistance.

Co-sponsorship by the US Embassy in Canberra introduced an element of international cooperation, and public events included a talk by Prof Haldane, a topologically-themed Physics in the Pub event, and media coverage.

Left: ECRs meet Nobel laureate Duncan Haldane at Topological Matter School (ANU).

Right: Education Liaison Camille Thomson.



The Topological School was fantastic, with a broad spectrum of lectures. A number of students commented on how much they had learned.

FLEET PI Prof Victor Galitski
University of Maryland

FLEET will continue to leverage the established ANU Summer School platform, aligning topics to FLEET research approximately every two years. This will introduce a wider scientific community to FLEET-related science and give ECRs an opportunity to build their knowledge base.

The 2020 physics summer school will cover spontaneous quantum coherence.

OTHER TRAINING PROGRAMS RUN BY FLEET THIS YEAR INCLUDED:

- **Outreach training** (Melbourne and Sydney)
- **Thin-film X-ray diffraction (XRD)** skills refresher, run by FLEET Research Fellow Dr Dan Sando (UNSW)
- **Tall Poppy training** with Education Liaison Camille Thomson (held at Monash University)
- **Ferroelectrics workshop** run by FLEET Research Fellows Dr Dan Sando and Dr Peggy Zhang (UNSW)
- **Nature paper and pitch training** at the FLEET annual workshop ([see p86](#))
- **YouRforum Post-PhD development training** (UNSW).





BUILDING MEMBERS' OUTREACH SKILLS: MELBOURNE KNOWLEDGE WEEK

Melbourne Knowledge Week (May 2018) was an opportunity for FLEET to engage with the public and road-test a number of outreach demonstrations being developed for schools. It also gave 20 Centre members the opportunity to gain valuable experience in public science outreach, speaking to a diverse audience.

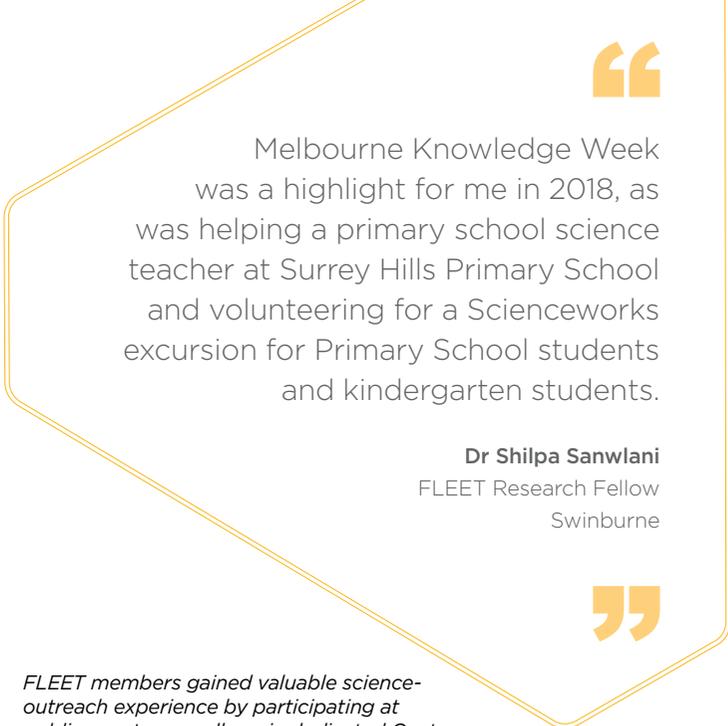
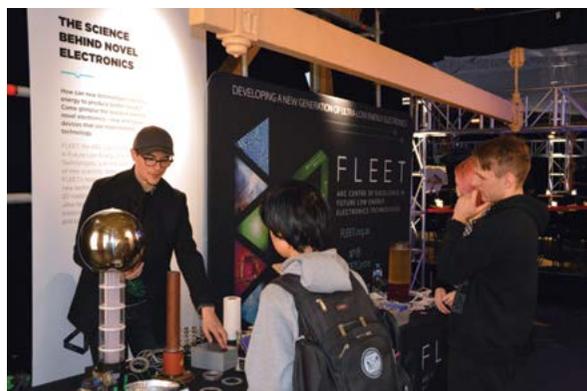
Melbourne Knowledge Week showcases cool science and engineering projects in the city of Melbourne, connecting non-scientists with the research and technology around them.

FLEET's Novel Electronics presentation ran for the full week at the festival hub, with hands-on science demonstrations linked to materials used in FLEET research, such as gallium, bismuth and ferrofluids.

FLEET members staffed the stand in small teams to demonstrate electrical and magnetism concepts, operate (and constantly tweak!) the laser maze, and explain FLEET's research.

This year FLEET has focused on improving members' skills and confidence in public engagement, and other forms of science communication (see more on p82).

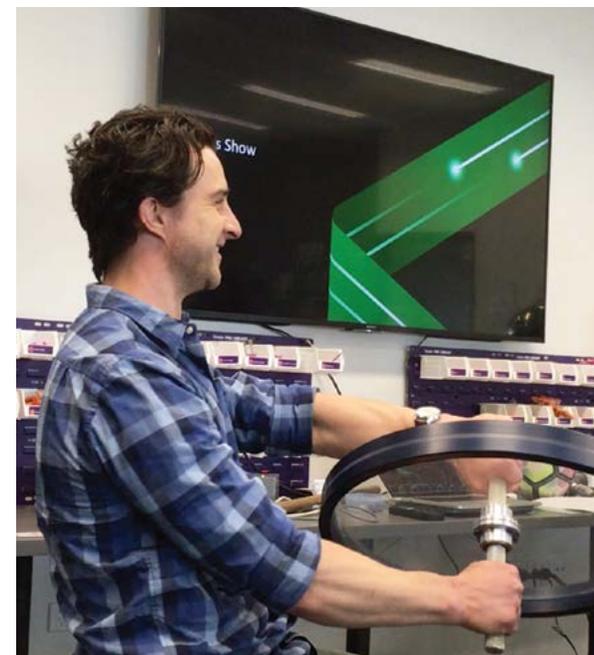
FLEET will be participating in Melbourne Knowledge Week 2019 with new activities under development.



Melbourne Knowledge Week was a highlight for me in 2018, as was helping a primary school science teacher at Surrey Hills Primary School and volunteering for a Scienceworks excursion for Primary School students and kindergarten students.

Dr Shilpa Sanwani
FLEET Research Fellow
Swinburne

FLEET members gained valuable science-outreach experience by participating at public events, as well as via dedicated Centre outreach training.





Secondary-school students experiment with magnetism, one of several school demonstrations at FLEET's official launch.

06 ENGAGE

FLEET is engaging Australians with science — from school to public to policy makers.



AVERAGE MONTHLY NEW USER VISITS TO FLEET.ORG.AU



WWW.

AVERAGE MONTHLY UNIQUE PAGE VIEWS



2318

VIEWS OF FLEET RESEARCH VIDEO (1768 new views)



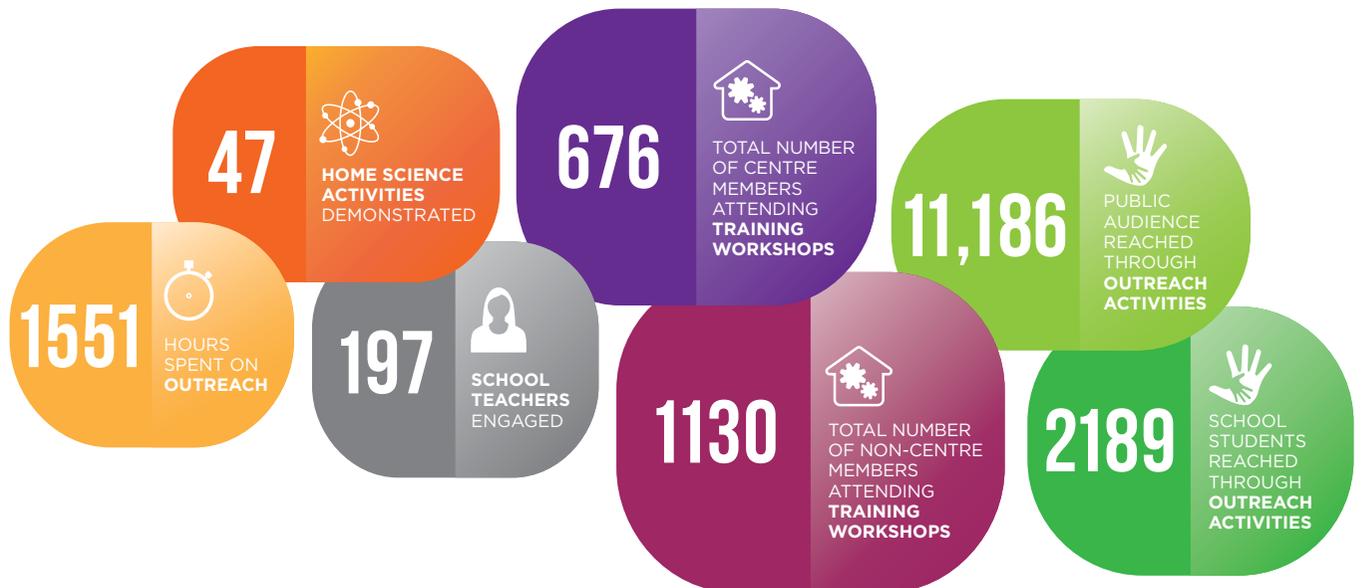
413

FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS (196 new followers)



594

TWITTER FOLLOWERS (310 new followers)





Secondary-school students experiment with magnetic properties of bismuth, one of the 'toolkit' of school activities developed for school outreach.

SPREADING A PASSION FOR SCIENCE: OUTREACH

FLEET focuses significant efforts on science outreach, with the aim of:

- Increasing the participation of students in science and physics
- Increasing understanding of and passion for science in the general public
- Improving the outreach skills of FLEET members
- Supporting the public discussion of FLEET-specific research.

FLEET shares the responsibility to increase the participation of students in science, and to increase the number of girls and women participating in physics, chemistry and engineering.

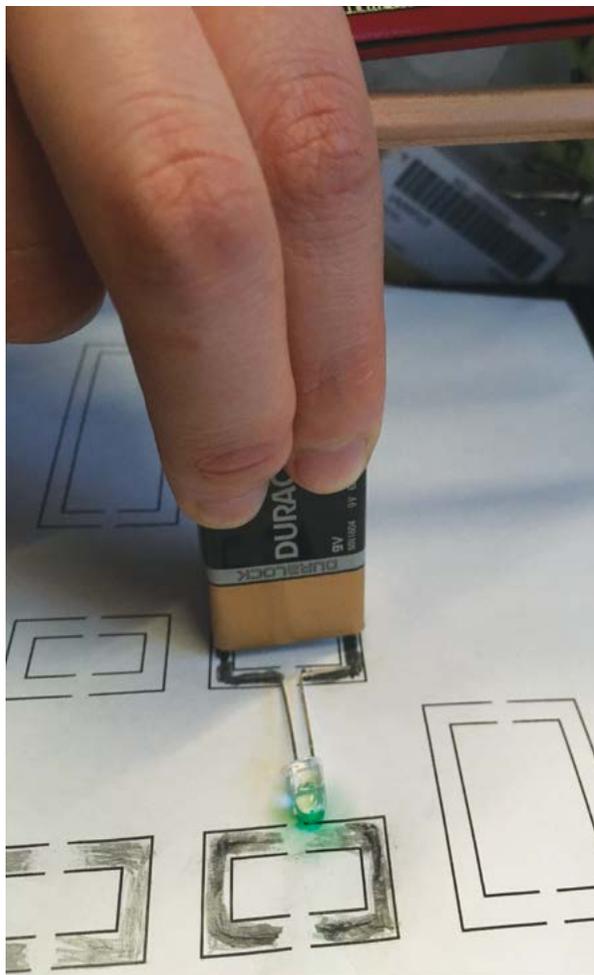
See p59 for successful outreach collaborations in 2018, including development of a virtual reality tour of FLEET labs, and significant outreach collaborations with the Australian Institute of Physics.

In 2019, FLEET will launch a Year 10 'Future electronics' course in partnership with John Monash Science School, Victoria. As well as covering the history of semiconductors and computing, and introducing students to Moore's Law, the course will also be Australia's first introduction to superfluids and topological materials at the secondary school level.

See the Outreach Committee on **p98**.



See more, including FLEET's continuing Home Science program, at [FLEET.org.au/outreach](https://www.fleet.org.au/outreach).



DID YOU KNOW...

Up to 75% of future jobs will require skills in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM). Yet school participation in science is in decline.

“

FLEET is to be congratulated on its outreach activities. Requiring each Centre member to spend 20 hours per year on outreach also provides significant benefits in the training and development of Centre researchers.

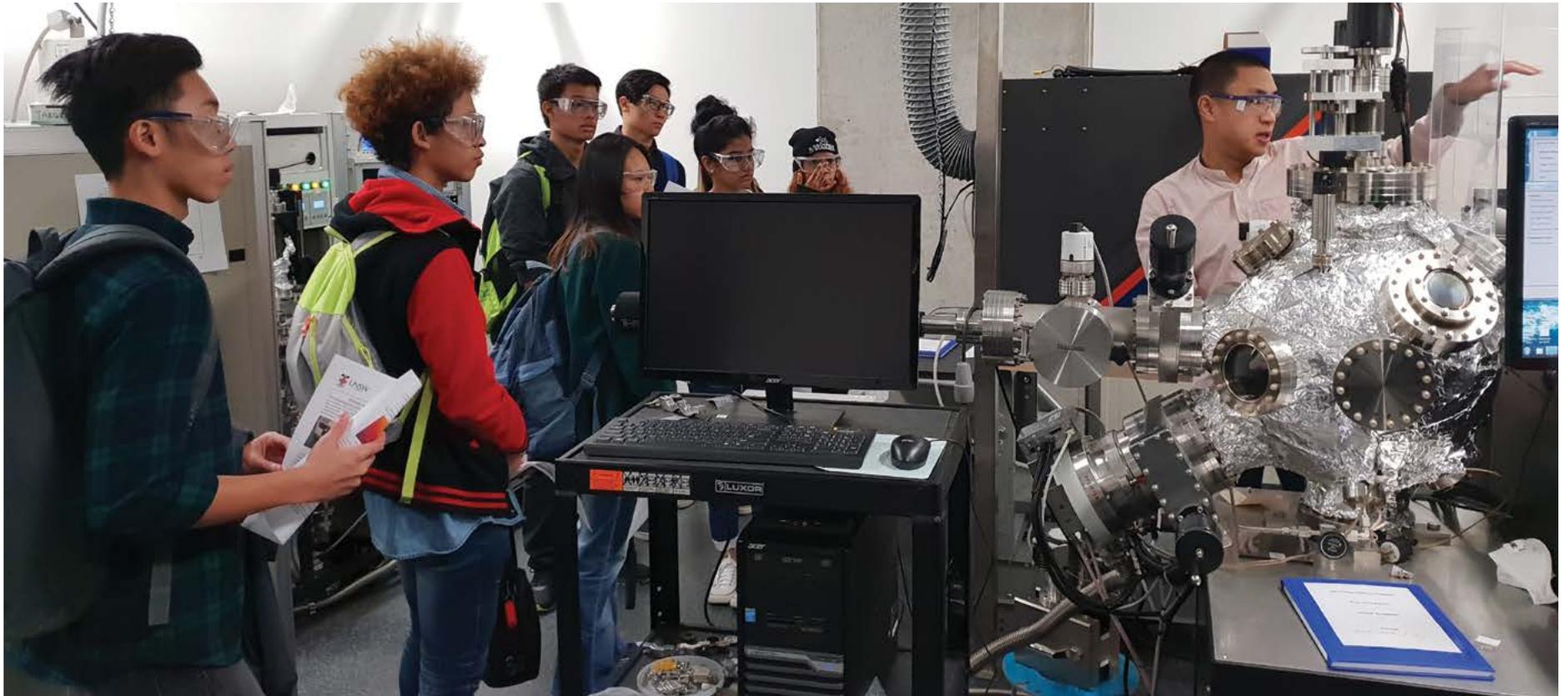
FLEET Advisory Committee

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Demonstrating electrical conduction in graphite. And using molecular models to describe 2D materials.



FLEET members hosted over 600 students on tours to Centre labs and visited nine schools.





FLEET's partnership with Monash Tech School has given students a new perspective on the importance of research. Being able to see scientists at work in state-of-the-art facilities, and having the chance to ask researchers questions, is unforgettable.

Neil Carmona-Vickery
Deputy Director,
Monash Tech School



Schools outreach also gives FLEET ECRs valuable opportunities to develop their science-communication skills.



Communicating learnings associated with FLEET into schools will be essential as we continue to use more technology in our everyday lives.

Andrew Chisholm
Assistant Principal,
John Monash Science School



ENGAGING SCHOOL STUDENTS

Over the course of 2018, 16 FLEET members visited or hosted 22 schools, engaging students with relevant issues such as information and technology (ICT) energy use, how transistors work and the new fields of science studied at FLEET.

Our visiting scientists were kitted out with an outreach toolkit developed in-house, including mechanical digi-computers to demonstrate binary operations, two-dimensional (2D) material demonstrations, an electronics card game and virtual reality viewers.

FLEET hosted lab tours in a very fruitful partnership with the new Monash Tech School, which provides hands-on science experiences for participating secondary students. During 2018, over 200 teachers and students from 10 schools were shown through FLEET labs by young Centre researchers.

Targeting students from remote schools, who do not get the opportunity to visit urban universities, FLEET also collaborated with others to create a virtual tour of FLEET labs ([see p59](#)).



A super-cooled, superconducting 'puck' floats around a magnetic track. FLEET's Mobius track has proven extremely successful at engaging school students with science.



SUPERCOOL, SUPERCONDUCTING FLEET MOBIUS TRACK

FLEET's superconducting track features 1500 neodymium magnets, fixed into the shape of a Mobius strip, so that a small superconducting 'puck', when cooled in liquid nitrogen, will whizz around the track, spending half of each orbit hanging suspended upside down.

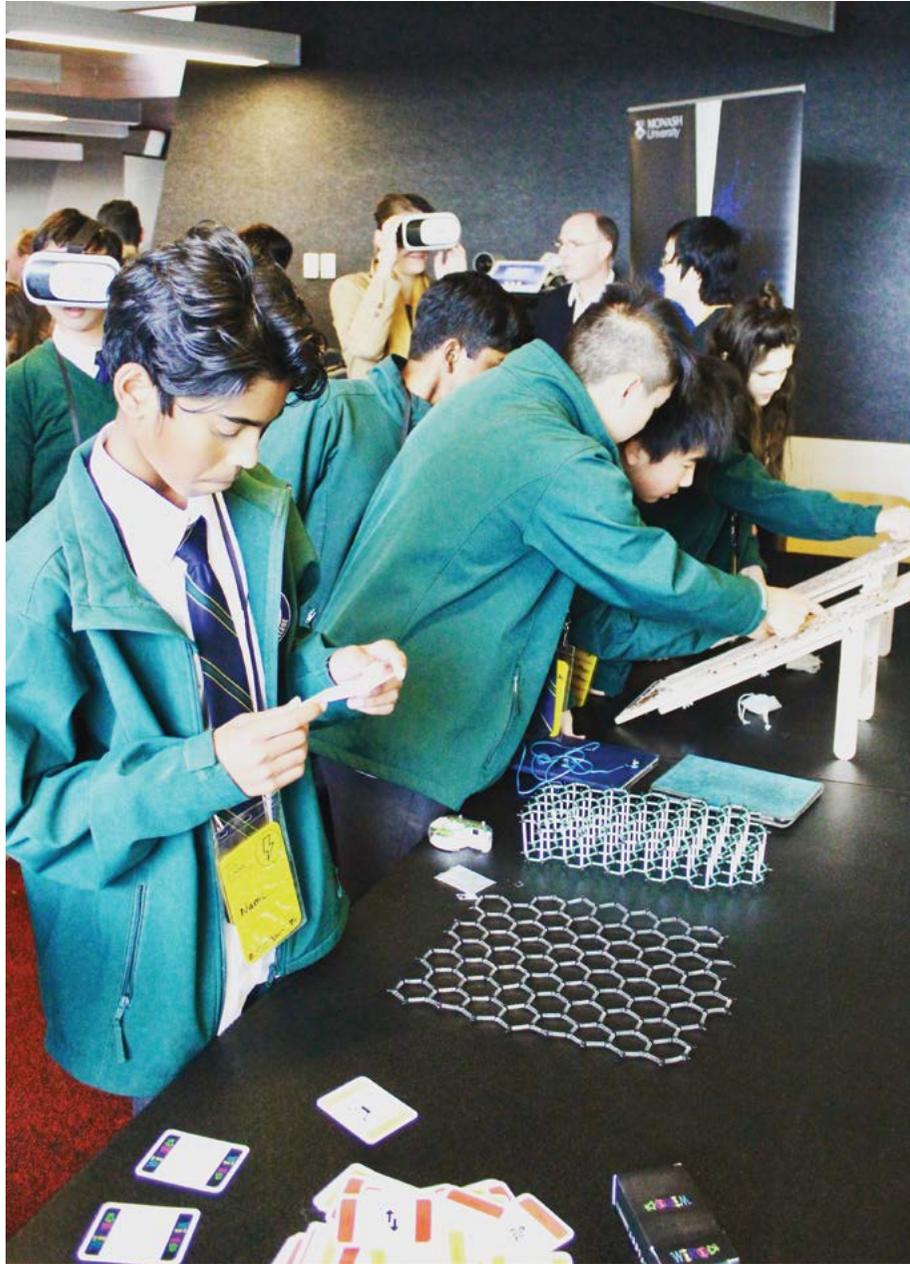
The track allows FLEET to demonstrate several relevant science concepts, including:

- Topology (via the Mobius strip – incidentally, mirroring the shape of FLEET's logo)
- Superconductivity (an interesting quantum state with implications for electric current)
- Magnetism
- Low-temperature physics
- Demonstration of invisible, atomic-scale science, via a physical demonstration.

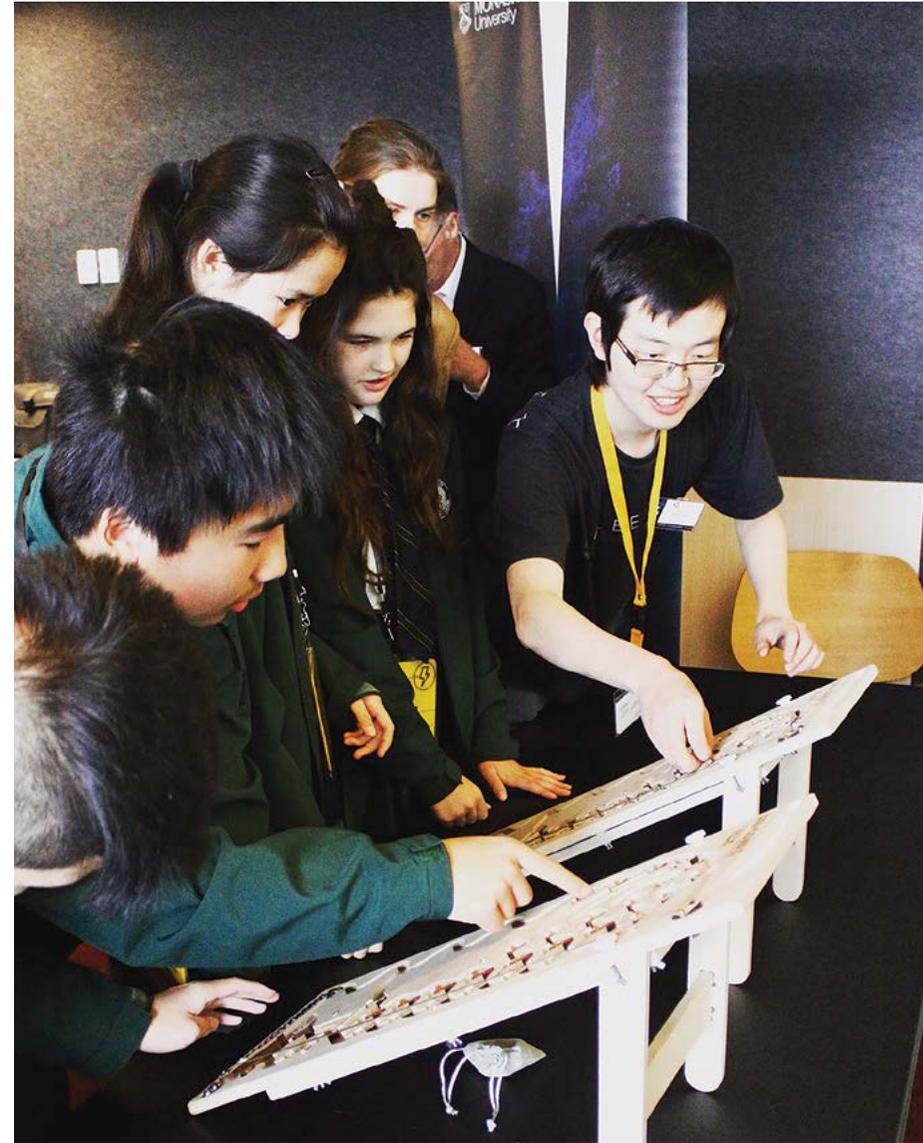
And it's also really fun, which is the key: physical science demonstrations that make a strong impact have a clear advantage in embedding learnings. The Mobius track and associated liquid nitrogen have been a highlight of lab tours and open days at Monash University and UNSW – no matter the age group, from school students to visiting scientists.

FLEET's prototype Mobius track was built by Monash University undergraduates as a summer research project, in collaboration with the Faculty of Science (the prototype is now used at Melbourne's Scienceworks museum). Subsequent, fine-tuned Mobius tracks are now used as outreach tools by FLEET teams at Monash and UNSW.

 See more at [FLEET.org.au/mobius](https://www.fleet.org.au/mobius)



Secondary-school students experiment with FLEET virtual reality (VR) lab tours, atomic models and manual digital computers.





*Dr Daisy Wang (UNSW)
speaking at the FLEET launch.*



*Future's so bright...
laser lab tour during
FLEET launch.*



LAUNCHING THE FLEET

FLEET's official launch in June 2018 was an opportunity to tell the story of FLEET to around 150 researchers, policymakers, stakeholders and school students.

The Centre's launch successfully incorporated diverse voices, from multiple FLEET nodes, and fully engaged all seven universities' communication teams. Invitees ranged from policymakers and university and partner stakeholders and affiliates to FLEET members from across the country, and a contingent of school students.

The event showcased the Centre's school science outreach efforts in spreading a passion for science to Australian schools, with an enthusiastic group of high-school students from Mount Waverley Secondary College 'road-testing' FLEET's suite of hands-on science demonstrations.

The audience heard from a range of speakers of various experience levels, including representatives from four of the Centre's seven Australian research nodes, speaking on FLEET's mission of addressing the challenge of ICT energy use, FLEET science, and Centre strategies to make an impact 'beyond the science' (that is, in member development and public outreach).

FLEET took advantage of the rare opportunity of having all its staff together to hold a short research workshop, sharing progress to date and fine-tuning research direction.



See more at FLEET.org.au/launch



SHARING FLEET RESEARCH: COMMUNICATION

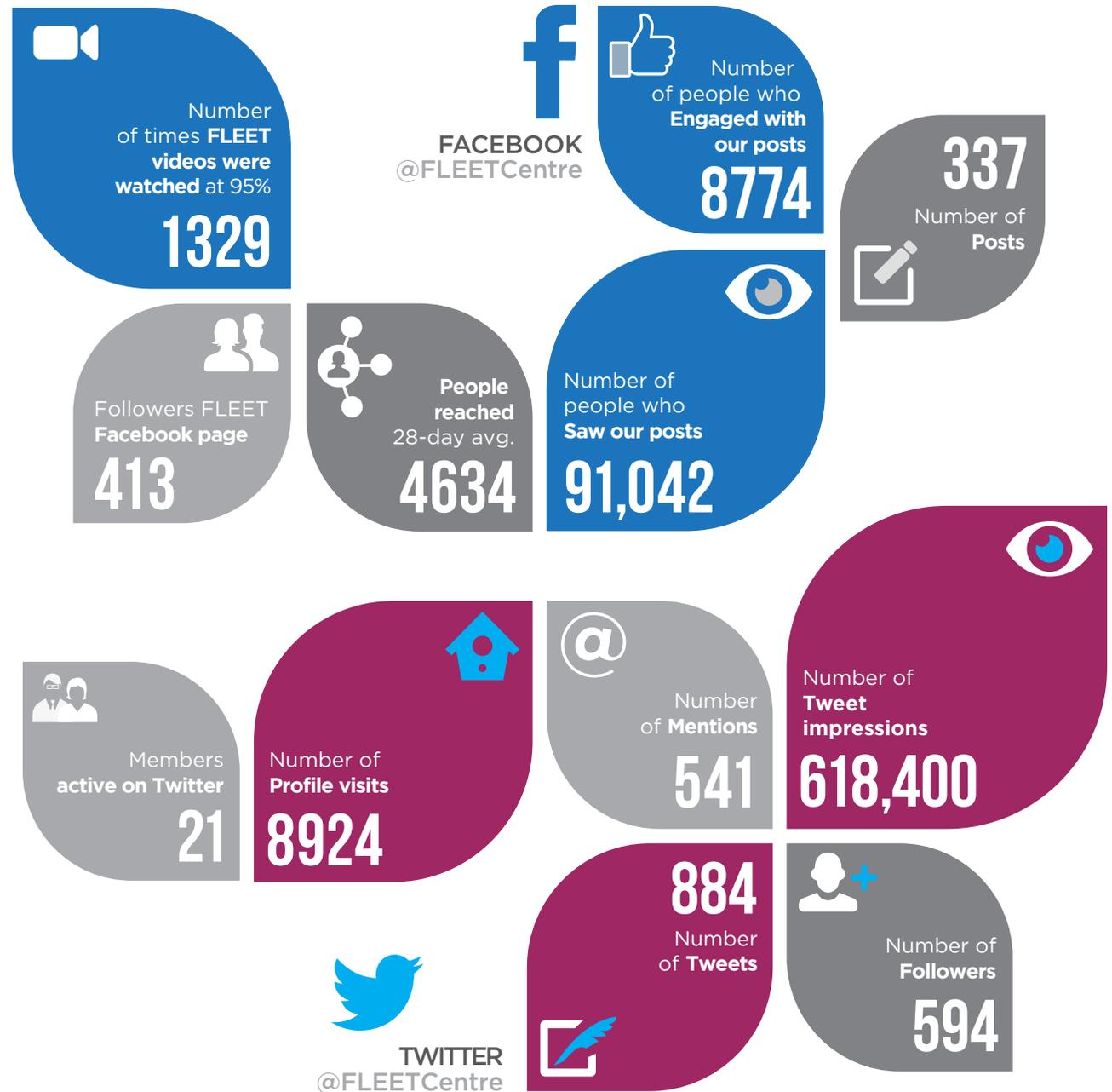
FLEET's communications functions include:

- Internal communication to maintain a cohesive Centre
- Informing the Australian public of the benefits being gained from ARC-funded research
- Supporting FLEET's outreach functions to build a more science-aware public
- Appropriately communicating FLEET's research outputs to different audiences; from the general public to the research community and potential collaborators.

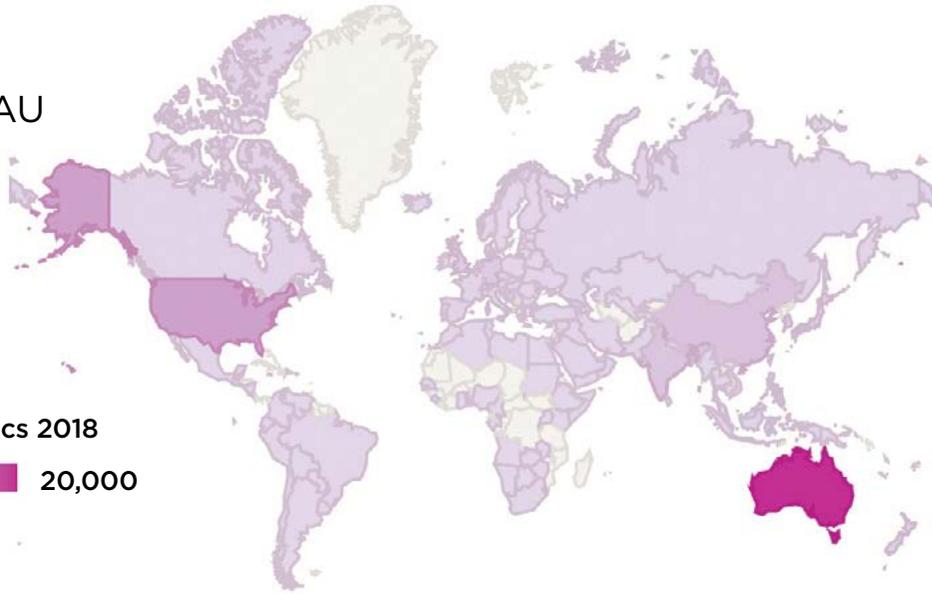
In 2018, FLEET used its official launch to showcase the Centre's story ([see case study p78](#)) and to engage key stakeholders. We expanded our reach to stakeholders via social media and a newsletter. And we began to develop our members' own communications skills.

FLEET has used mainstream media, university and partner communication teams, and online science platforms to communicate Centre research results widely, to the public as well as science peers (exceeding the media mentions KPI by a factor of five).

See the Communication Committee on [p100](#).



FLEET.ORG.AU

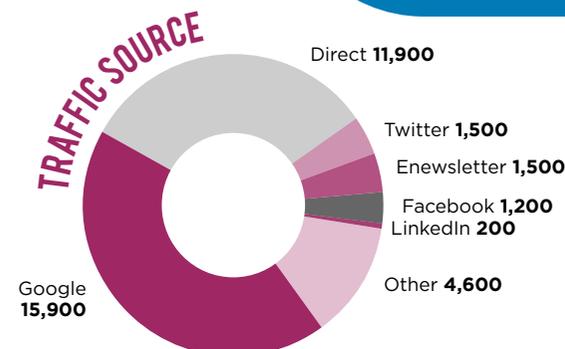


Website statistics 2018

1 20,000

I am able to stay in touch with what's happening around FLEET via the members newsletter, the FLEET.org.au website, and via social media.

James Collins
FLEET PhD student,
Monash



A strength of FLEET's is the communication between different groups, such as our RMIT/UNSW collaboration this year.

Cheng Tan
FLEET PhD student,
RMIT



Research Fellow Carlos Noschang Kuhn (Swinburne) demonstrates scientific principles with water-powered rockets.



DEVELOPING FLEET MEMBERS' OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS

FLEET is equipping and empowering our members to communicate their own scientific work.

The Centre provides training, support, incentives and opportunities for members to develop their science communication and public speaking skills, setting them up for future success in research or other fields.

This has the additional benefit of exposing students and public to genuine, young, relatable operating scientists, and is particularly important in making girls aware that science is not just for boys.

In addition, having the researchers themselves telling the story of their own research results in science communication that is more authentic and more compelling.

Many FLEET members achieved the Centre's goal of a minimum of 20 hours of outreach per year, with one scientist achieving over 50 hours. Next year, the Centre will provide even more opportunities, in particular further support for those members who have found outreach most challenging.

FLEET PhD student Rebecca Orrell-Trigg (RMIT/UNSW), excelled in her first ever radio interview, discussing her research project on Radio RRR science show Einstein a Gogo.



“

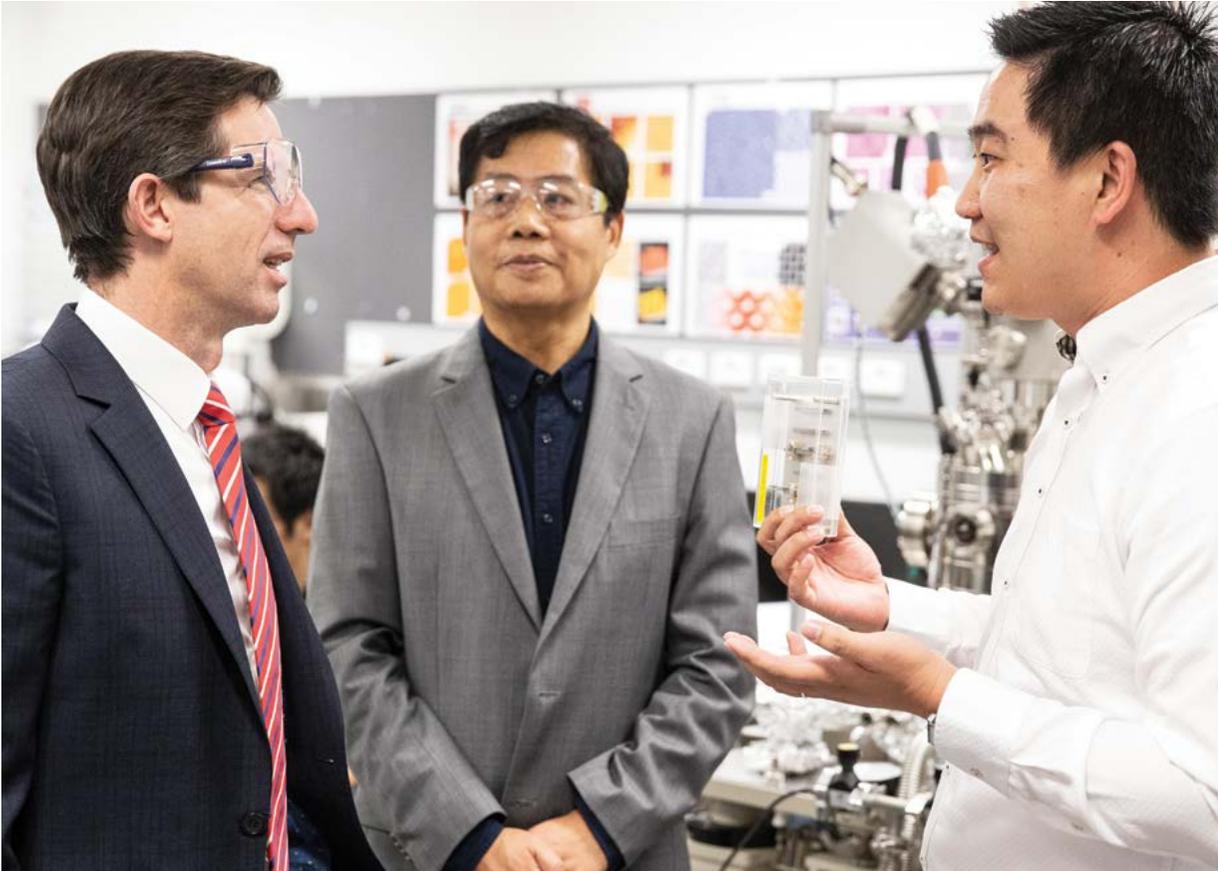
Engaging with public and students has been a personal highlight in 2018. At Monash University Open Day I got to explain FLEET’s focus and relevance to the general public, and describe my job as a researcher to many potential future physics students.

Dr Changxi Zheng
FLEET Research Fellow,
Monash University

”

Communications development activities of our members in 2018 included:

- Outreach at schools, hosting lab tours, presenting FLEET science at university open days at all seven FLEET nodes
- *Nature*-article writing workshop at FLEET’s annual workshop (see p86), and panel of journal editors at ICON-2DMat (see p56)
- Members’ articles published in *Australian Physics* and *The Conversation*
- Eight radio interviews, including early-career researchers and PhDs
- Onstage presentations including Pint of Science (Wollongong), Physics in the Pub (Melbourne and Brisbane), and the Great Science Debate (Melbourne and Sydney)
- Early-career representation at FLEET launch
- Outreach training in Sydney and Melbourne
- Melbourne Knowledge Week (see case study p69).



ENGAGING WITH POLICYMAKERS

Education Minister Simon Birmingham and ARC CEO Sue Thomas visited FLEET labs at the University of Wollongong's (UOW's) Innovation Campus. UOW node leader Prof Xiaolin Wang, Centre Deputy Director Prof Alex Hamilton (UNSW) and UOW researchers gave the Minister a quick introduction to ICT energy-use issues, topological insulators and atomically-thin materials, including a tour of labs where novel materials are developed within FLEET's Enabling technology A.

Melbourne MP and Greens Science and Energy spokesperson Dr Adam Bandt visited FLEET's labs at RMIT, meeting members and learning about the ICT energy-use issues that underlie FLEET's mission.

Host Prof Kourosch Kalantar-zadeh also introduced Dr Bandt to the members of ARC Centres for Quantum Science and Exciton Science; the three ARC Centres' co-location at RMIT Research provides valuable crossovers of ideas.

Introducing policymakers to FLEET science: Greens science spokesperson Dr Adam Bandt at RMIT (right and upper left) and Education Minister Sen Simon Birmingham at UOW.

ENGAGING WITH INDUSTRY

FLEET will present the electronics industry with viable technical solutions to the problem of power consumption at data centres, producing more-efficient electronic circuits and memory devices.

In 2019, FLEET will:

- Produce electronic materials intellectual property that can form the basis of spin-off companies
- Build links to intermediary research institutes and provide an avenue to deliver intellectual property to development laboratories with a commercialisation focus
- Leverage strong ties with research centres focused on novel materials research and translation; for example, the Monash Centre for Atomically Thin Materials
- Liaise with potential stakeholders in novel electronic devices and systems through an industry network.

2018 highlights

- Formed collaborative research grant opportunities with Lockheed Martin, Merck Australia and Invest Shenzhen, China
- Explored future research collaborations with AMNY Medical, Advanced Functional Materials and Solar Energy Association Shandong, China and the MacDiarmid Institute (see p55)
- Explored potential funding opportunities with investment brokers
- Established contacts with potential collaborators and end users Minetek Sydney and GoogleX.

See the Industry Relationship Committee (p99).

Also see new partnerships (p54).





BUILDING A COHESIVE CENTRE: FLEET'S ANNUAL WORKSHOP

Forging a Centre that is greater than the sum of its parts

FLEET's second annual workshop built on the successes of the 2017 workshop, bringing all of the Centre's members and many international partners together in Magenta, mid-coast New South Wales.

As in 2017, the workshop was family friendly, with partners and family made welcome at shared meals, social events and poster sessions, and with free, on-site childcare on offer to those with young kids. Almost 40 partners and other family members took us up on this offer, and care was provided for 16 children.

Other highlights included:

- How to write and pitch a *Nature* paper: a development workshop for early-career researchers
- Inaugural FLEET trivia night
- Talks by a wealth of visiting international collaborators and partners
- Industry engagement panel
- Video presentation by CSIRO Chief Scientist Cathy Foley.

Sharing research results with colleagues from other nodes and research streams via poster sessions at the FLEET Annual Workshop.



FLEET's 2nd Annual Workshop strengthened links between nodes and themes.



“

In my short career, I have never enjoyed a conference as much as FLEET's second annual workshop, both socially and scientifically. It is a huge credit to everybody involved in its organisation, and the spirit of the centre as a whole.

Dr Jackson Smith
FLEET Research Fellow, RMIT

”

“

The poster sessions at FLEET's annual workshop were extremely valuable, giving me the opportunity to interact directly with the researchers.

Dr Ian Spielman
FLEET Partner Investigator,
University of Maryland

”



Ultrafast Dynamics

Shilpa Sanwlani, Stuart Earl, Mitchell A. Compton

This work aims to provide the mechanism to achieve topological order by applying periodically driving electromagnetic fields from femtosecond timescales. We study the effect of switching the driving field on and off through time resolved transient absorption spectroscopy which helps in quantifying interaction for realization of Floquet topological insulators.

INTRODUCTION

The coherent light-matter interaction in solid state systems leads to the hybridized states distinctive in their energy spectra, these are known as Floquet Bloch states. Circularly polarized light naturally breaks time reversal symmetry, which is a prerequisite in three certain solid state systems to reveal topologically distinct phases such as topological insulators, Weyl semimetals and Dirac semimetals. In this work we use time resolved transient absorption to understand the fundamental Floquet physics of switching between light induced states in 2D semiconducting materials.

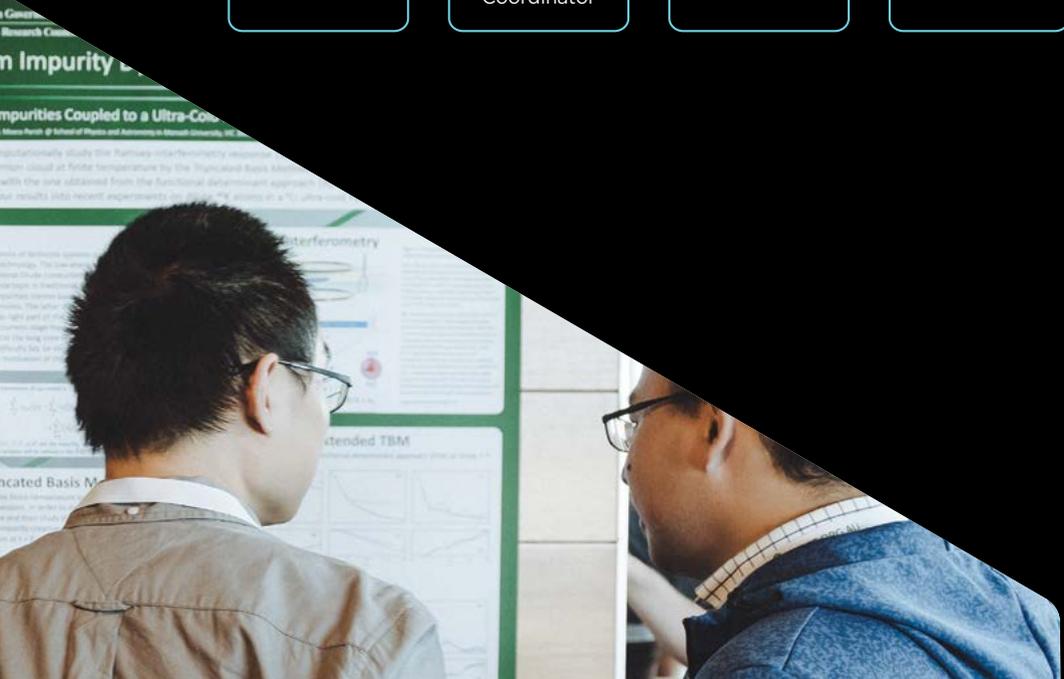
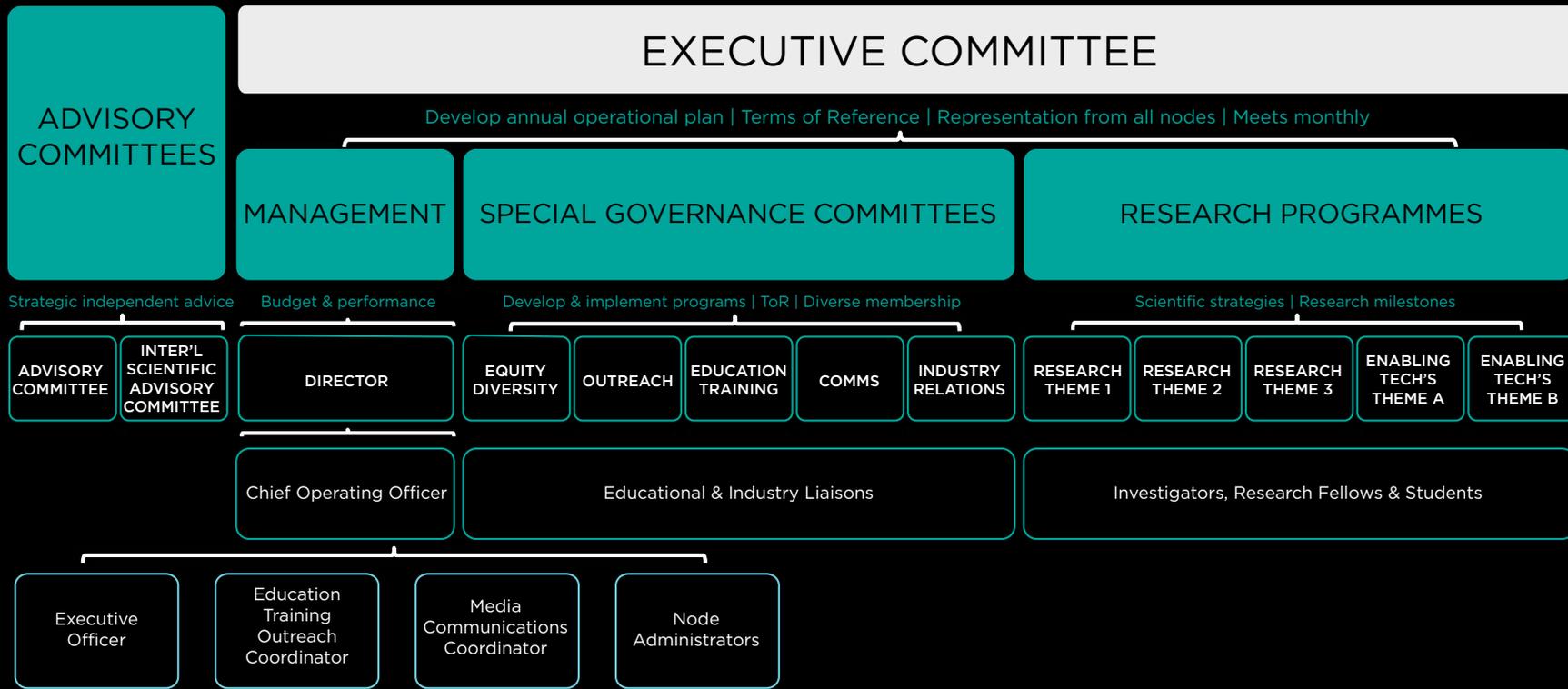
- Floquet topological insulators possess a topological phase which can be induced by time periodic perturbations.
- With circularly polarized driving field, we demonstrate the control over valley degeneracy.

→ We demonstrate the valley selection in momentum k_z optical Stark effect using on and off circularly polarized driving field.

→ Optical Stark effect is observed to increase linearly with increasing pump fluence as expected, even for shorter pulses.

FLEET Research Fellows
Shaun Johnston (Monash)
and Shilpa Sanwlani
(Swinburne) discuss their
shared research of ultracold
non-equilibrium systems.

FLEET creates a work environment that develops its people, and also values the contributions of individual members.





DR CATHERINE BUCHANAN
Executive Officer

Catherine coordinates KPI and budget reporting across FLEET's seven nodes and provides administrative support to the Executive and governance committees.



CECILIA BLOISE
Node Coordinator UNSW

Cecilia supports FLEET operations at UNSW and provides support to node leader Prof Alex Hamilton.



DR DIANNE RUKA
Senior Education and Training Coordinator

Dianne leads FLEET's education and training missions, student recruitment, career development programs, internship placement and outreach programs.



ERROL HUNT
Senior Communications Coordinator

Errol coordinates FLEET's communications strategies, and communicates Centre mission and outcomes within FLEET, to the scientific community, to potential end users and to the public via media.



KATHLEEN HICKS
Node Administrator ANU

Kathy supports FLEET operations at ANU and supports node leader A/Prof Elena Ostrovskaya.



NICCI COAD
Node Administrator RMIT

Nicci coordinates reporting of KPIs and budgets and provides administrative support to node leader Prof Lan Wang and the RMIT team.



TATIANA TCHERNOVA
Node Administrator Swinburne

Tatiana provides administrative support and coordinates KPI reporting, as well as supporting node leader Prof Chris Vale.



DR TICH-LAM NGUYEN
Chief Operating Officer

Tich-Lam oversees FLEET's financial and operational effectiveness. She leads the Centre business team and drives strategic focus and the achievement of key FLEET goals.



FLEET provides great logistical and administrative support, for example coordinating Centre efforts in training, mentoring, media and communications.

Dr Agustin Schiffrin
FLEET Chief Investigator,
Monash University



FLEET is doing very well with research, education, collaboration, and promotion of underrepresented minorities. It's very encouraging to see high quality publications by Centre researchers and the active participation of students and post-docs.

Dr An Chen
FLEET Advisory Committee
IBM



ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AC)

FLEET's Advisory Committee helps the Executive Committee develop FLEET's strategic plan, which sets out how the Centre will meet its goals, in particular in creating linkages with industry, academia, and government. The Advisory Committee:

- Reviews FLEET's Annual Operating Plan
- Provides recommendations on financial management
- Provides recommendations on general management and operation, to ensure the Centre achieves its objectives
- Produces an annual report of strengths, weaknesses and opportunities.



DR CATHY FOLEY
Chief Scientist
CSIRO, Australia



PROF ELLEN WILLIAMS
Distinguished Professor
University of Maryland,
USA



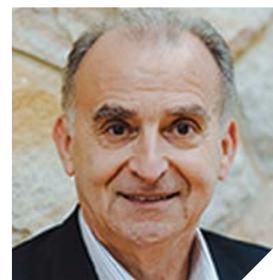
PROF ANDREW PEELE
Director
Australian Synchrotron,
Australia



PROF IAN SMITH
Vice-Provost of Research and Research Infrastructure
Monash University,
Australia



DR AN CHEN
Executive Director
Semiconductor Research Corporation, IBM
Nanoelectronics Research Initiative, USA



PROF LUIGI COLOMBO
Fellow
Texas Instruments, USA

FLEET ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

After meeting at Magenta (NSW), the FLEET Advisory Committee (AC) has reported on Centre activities:

The Advisory Committee is impressed with the performance and achievements of FLEET to date. The scientific themes and approaches within FLEET are well structured and the Centre is showing signs of strong scientific results, with some high-impact publications.

The Centre should strengthen its industry engagement activities. FLEET offers enormous potential but there is a danger that FLEET researchers may perceive themselves as being removed from industry interactions. The experience of successful translators of cutting-edge research is that it is never too early.

FLEET's strategic plan is rational and detailed and adequately quantifies measurables. In some cases, typically where KPIs are not being met, the AC advised the FLEET Executive to formulate plans to meet the targets.

Overall, the committee is impressed by a sound management structure designed to encourage scientific productivity in an inclusive way from a diversity of members. In particular, the AC notes that FLEET is providing excellent support for families and junior researchers.



Full report available at
[FLEET.org.au/advisory-report](https://fleet.org.au/advisory-report)

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ISAC):

- Provides independent scientific advice to FLEET investigators, both directly and through the Centre Director
- Advises on the scientific directions of FLEET
- Benchmarks the quality of FLEET research against international standards
- Produces an annual report placing FLEET's progress in an international context and making recommendations for future directions.



It is an exciting time for the study of topological phases of matter, and it is great to see FLEET's focus on using this new science for more efficient electronics.

Prof Ali Yazdani

Princeton Center for Complex Materials
FLEET International Scientific
Advisory Committee



PROF ALI YAZDANI
Professor of Physics
Princeton University,
USA



**PROF HIDENORI
TAKAGI**
Director
Max Planck Institute for
Solid State Research,
Germany



**SIR KOSTYA
NOVOSELOV**
Professor of Physics
University of Manchester,
UK



SIR MICHAEL PEPPER
Professor of Physics
University College
London, UK



**PROF WOLFGANG
KETTERLE**
Professor of Physics
Massachusetts Institute of
Technology, USA

GOAL	MEASURE
1. ENABLE FRONTIER SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERIES	
1.1 Realise topologically-protected dissipationless transport of electrical current at room temperature, and novel devices based on the ability to switch this dissipationless current on and off	Project milestones and research outputs
1.2 Demonstrate exciton superfluidity at elevated temperatures, near room temperature	
1.3 Realise systems that exhibit dissipationless transport when driven out of equilibrium, using periodic (Floquet) and/or strong fields	
2. DEVELOP NEXT GENERATION OF SCIENCE LEADERS	
2.1 Develop world-class training & mentoring programs	Number of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> participating members external mentors research/professional development courses mentoring programs organisational links in mentoring and training programs
2.2 Establish succession planning for the Centre	Established plan
2.3 Facilitate opportunities for research collaboration	Number of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> travel grants facilitating collaboration FLEET-wide colloquia, research seminars and workshops
2.4 Establish a collaborative culture within the Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> collaborative visits by FLEET partners intra-Centre expertise exchanges new organisations collaborating with FLEET
2.5 Identify opportunities for members to be recognised	Number of awards & grants received by members for scientific/leadership achievements
3. ESTABLISH EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS	
3.1 Establish international partnerships	Number of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> investigators/ECRs/students visiting partner organisations visits to FLEET nodes by partners/collaborators
3.2 Establish links to industry and end users	Number of briefings to end-users/industry
3.3 Create a network to commercialise FLEET discoveries	Number of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> relationships with end-users industry engagement workshops

GOAL	MEASURE
4. FOSTER EQUITY/DIVERSITY IN STEM	
4.1 Foster a culture of equity and inclusiveness	Response rate to annual surveys High levels of satisfaction with FLEET workplace culture Compliance of all events organised/supported by FLEET with Centre's Equity & Diversity guidelines
4.2 Increase diversity among all cohorts of researchers	Increased number of female researchers/HDR students across FLEET
4.3 Establish career support initiatives for women in FLEET	Increased retention rates of ECR women in FLEET Increased participation of FLEET researchers with family/carer responsibilities in FLEET/external events
4.4 Establish a women-specific mentoring network	Increased uptake of mentoring opportunities by women in FLEET
5. PROMOTE PUBLIC SCIENCE LITERACY	
5.1 Promote a sustained understanding of FLEET's work	Increased FLEET involvement in the education curriculum & scientific engagement events
5.2 Develop the scientific literacy of Australians through the use of teaching aids, classroom lessons and science demonstrations	Increased public awareness of scientific concepts Increased number of FLEET members participating in STEM Professionals in Schools
5.3 Promote the uptake of STEM subjects in schools	Increased number of girls choosing STEM subjects in senior years at partner schools Increased retention in STEM subjects from year 11 to 12 at partner schools
6. FACILITATE EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION	
6.1 Support centre strategic goals through internal communication using tools such as monthly newsletters	Improvement in internal newsletter readership
6.2 Engage with scientific research community through research stories published on key online science platforms and stakeholders' newsletters	Increased number of external newsletter audience
6.3 Promote FLEET research and scientific literacy to public through web content and social media	Number of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> social media audience reached on priority channels (Twitter, Facebook) mainstream media articles
6.4 Engage with key partners including the ARC, govt., participating nodes and collaborators through research stories, stakeholders' newsletters and social media	Number of briefings to govt. agencies & NGOs
6.5 Empower FLEET members to communicate their own scientific work by providing communication skills training, resources and incentives	Number of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> non-peer reviewed articles members discussing their science on social media members presenting their research in a public forum student members participating in Three-Minute-Thesis competition, and similar



For full strategic plan see [FLEET.org.au/strategic-plan](https://fleet.org.au/strategic-plan)

FLEET'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

FLEET's Executive Committee oversees strategic plans for the Centre, in accordance with the Australian Research Council (ARC) Funding Agreement and agreements with the Centre's collaborating organisations. The committee's responsibilities include:

- Overseeing general management and operation of the Centre
- Proper allocation of funding
- Approval of Centre activities
- Approval of Centre intellectual property ownership
- Approval of any amendments to Centre budget and research program
- Promoting interactions between participants and partners across nodes and institutions
- Solving problems in the successful execution of the Centre's mission

FLEET's Executive team comprises leaders of research themes and nodes, and committee chairs.



PROF MICHAEL FUHRER
Director

Michael is a pioneer of the study of electronic properties of 2D materials, with extensive experience establishing and managing large, interdisciplinary research teams in Australia and the USA.

He directs implementation of FLEET's vision and mission and coordinates the three Research themes and two Enabling technologies. With FLEET's Executive team, Michael implements the Centre's strategic plan regarding research, technology transfer, training and mentorship, and outreach.

An accomplished communicator, Michael represents FLEET's work to the research community, government, students, media and the public.

Michael is an ARC Laureate Fellow and former Director of the Monash Centre for Atomically Thin Materials and the Center for Nanophysics and Advanced Materials (University of Maryland).



DR TICH-LAM NGUYEN
Chief Operating Officer

Tich-Lam manages FLEET's operations and its business team. She's responsible for the Centre's financial and operational effectiveness and overseeing activities contributing to the development and delivery of its strategic goals.

Tich-Lam has a PhD in Chemistry from RMIT University and a Master of Management from the Melbourne Business School.



Working with the central FLEET ops team is a treat. I never feel isolated as a node administrator, because of the team spirit, availability, and disposition of the central team. Great team, top culture - one of the best I have worked with.

Cecilia Bloise

Node administrator, UNSW



COMMITTEE MEMBERS:



PROF ALEX HAMILTON
Deputy Director
Leader, Research theme 1
Node leader, University of New South Wales



A/PROF ELENA OSTROVSKAYA
Leader, Research theme 2
Chair, Equity & Diversity Committee
Node leader, Australian National University



PROF KRIS HELMERSON
Leader, Research theme 3
Monash University



PROF XIAOLIN WANG
Leader, Enabling technology A
Node leader, University of Wollongong



A/PROF LAN WANG
Leader, Enabling technology B
Node leader, RMIT University



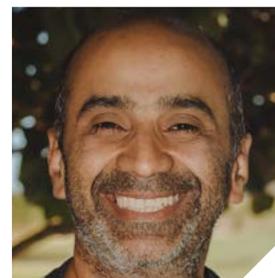
PROF CHRIS VALE
Chair, Outreach Committee
Node leader, Swinburne



PROF KOUROSH KALANTAR-ZADEH
Chair, Industry Relations Committee
University of New South Wales / RMIT University



PROF MATTHEW DAVIS
Chair, Education & Training Committee
Node leader, University of Queensland



PROF NAGARAJAN 'NAGY' VALANOOR
Chair, Communications Committee
University of New South Wales

“
FLEET is very cohesive. Even though RMIT is a smaller node, we always feel well-supported by the Operations Team, and included in Centre communications and events.
”

Nicci Coad
Node administrator, RMIT

EQUITY AND DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

FLEET fosters a culture of inclusiveness and works to promote diversity across the Centre. FLEET's Equity and Diversity Committee sets and monitors the Centre's equity priorities, monitors our progress and tracks staff culture via surveys, and learns from equity best practice across the science sector (see p61).



We have significantly expanded Committee membership this year to ensure representation from each node, and to engage more with our student and early-career researchers.

A/Prof Elena Ostrovskaya
Chair, Equity and Diversity Committee



**A/PROF MEERA
PARISH**
Monash



OLIVER SANDBERG
PhD student, UQ



DR TICH-LAM NGUYEN
Chief Operating Officer



PROF XIAOLIN WANG
UOW



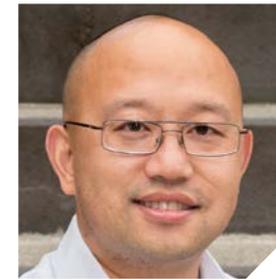
**YONATAN ASHLEA
ALAVA**
PhD student, UNSW



DR JEFF DAVIS
Swinburne



**PROF KRIS
HELMERSON**
Monash



A/PROF LAN WANG
RMIT



**PROF MATTHEW
DAVIS**
UQ



**A/PROF ELENA
OSTROVSKAYA**
Committee Chair, ANU



DR BABAR SHABBIR
Research Fellow, Monash



DR DIMI CULCER
UNSW

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

BUILDING FUTURE SCIENCE LEADERS: EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE

FLEET is building future Australian science leaders amongst the Centre's ECRs and HDRs.

FLEET's Education and Training Committee sets the Centre's strategies and sponsorship priorities, checking progress and development requirements (see p65).



The central organisation of training and development within FLEET encourages a lot of great activities that it wouldn't be possible to do without the Centre.

Prof Matthew Davis
Chair, Education and Training Committee



COMMITTEE MEMBERS:



PROF MATTHEW DAVIS
Committee Chair, UQ



DR DIANNE RUKA
Education and Training Coordinator



A/PROF ELENA OSTROVSKAYA
ANU



PROF JAN SEIDEL
UNSW



PROF JARED COLE
RMIT



DR JEFF DAVIS
Swinburne



PROF KRIS HELMERSON
Monash



PROF XIAOLIN WANG
UOW

SPREADING A PASSION FOR SCIENCE: OUTREACH COMMITTEE

FLEET will increase science literacy in the Australian community, and inspire more participation in science. FLEET's Outreach Committee sets outreach strategy and determines appropriate outreach activities and public events to support [\(see p72\)](#).

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:



PROF CHRIS VALE
Committee Chair,
Swinburne



DR DIANNE RUKA
Education and Training
Coordinator



DR DIMI CULCER
Deputy Chair, UNSW



A/PROF ELENA
OSTROVSKAYA
ANU



ERROL HUNT
Communications
Coordinator



A/PROF NIKHIL
MEDHEKAR
Monash



PROF MATTHEW
DAVIS
UQ

“

It's wonderful to see how eagerly FLEET members have engaged in outreach activities this year.

Prof Chris Vale
Chair,
Outreach Committee

”

“

FLEET's engagement with industrial partners in 2018 is laying the groundwork for delivery of FLEET innovations into affiliated industries.

Prof Kourosh Kalantar-zadeh
Chair,
Industry Relations Committee

”

In 2019 the Committee will be expanded to increase the involvement of Centre investigators with industry engagement, and will increase engagement with key industrial liaisons, encouraging their input into committee meetings.



Industry panel at the FLEET Annual Workshop featured Centre Industry Liaisons and AC members.

RESEARCH TRANSLATION: INDUSTRY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

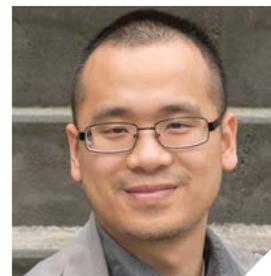
FLEET's Industry Relations Committee's task is to:

- Ensure FLEET research outcomes are fed into affiliated and broader industries
- Engage with current industrial partners and attract future industry partners
- Establish the ground for translation and eventual commercialisation of research outputs, with maximum benefit to the consumers.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:



**PROF KOUROSH
KALANTAR-ZADEH**
**Committee Chair, UNSW/
RMIT**



DR JIAN-ZHEN OU
**Scientific Associate
Investigator, RMIT**



**A/PROF QIAOLIANG
BAO**
Monash



**DR TICH-LAM
NGUYEN**
Chief Operating Officer



PROF XIAOLIN WANG
UOW

SHARING FLEET NEWS AND SCIENCE: COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

FLEET's Communications Committee gathers information and leads on stories from diverse nodes, feeding them through to the communications coordinator, channels feedback from the nodes, and develops strategies to communicate FLEET research to the wider research community, partners, stakeholders, potential end-users and the public (see p80).

In 2018 the Communication Committee expanded its membership to include more diverse voices, including students and ECRs.

A highlight of FLEET communication activities in 2018 was the added dialogue between industry and academia.

Prof Nagarajan 'Nagy' Valanoor
Chair, Communications Committee



The Advisory Committee recognises and congratulates FLEET's strong, well-coordinated effort in communications, along with tangible metrics such as media mentions.

FLEET Advisory Committee



DR DAVID COLAS
Research Fellow, UQ

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:



PROF NAGARAJAN 'NAGY' VALANOOR
Committee Chair, UNSW



CHUTIAN WANG
PhD student, Monash



DR DAVID CORTIE
Scientific Associate Investigator, UOW



ERROL HUNT
Communications Coordinator



PROF JARED COLE
RMIT



DR JEFF DAVIS
Swinburne



MARYAM BOOZARJMEHR
PhD student, ANU



DR SAMUEL 'SAM' BLADWELL
Research Fellow, UNSW



DR STUART EARL
Research Fellow, Swinburne

PERFORMANCE 08

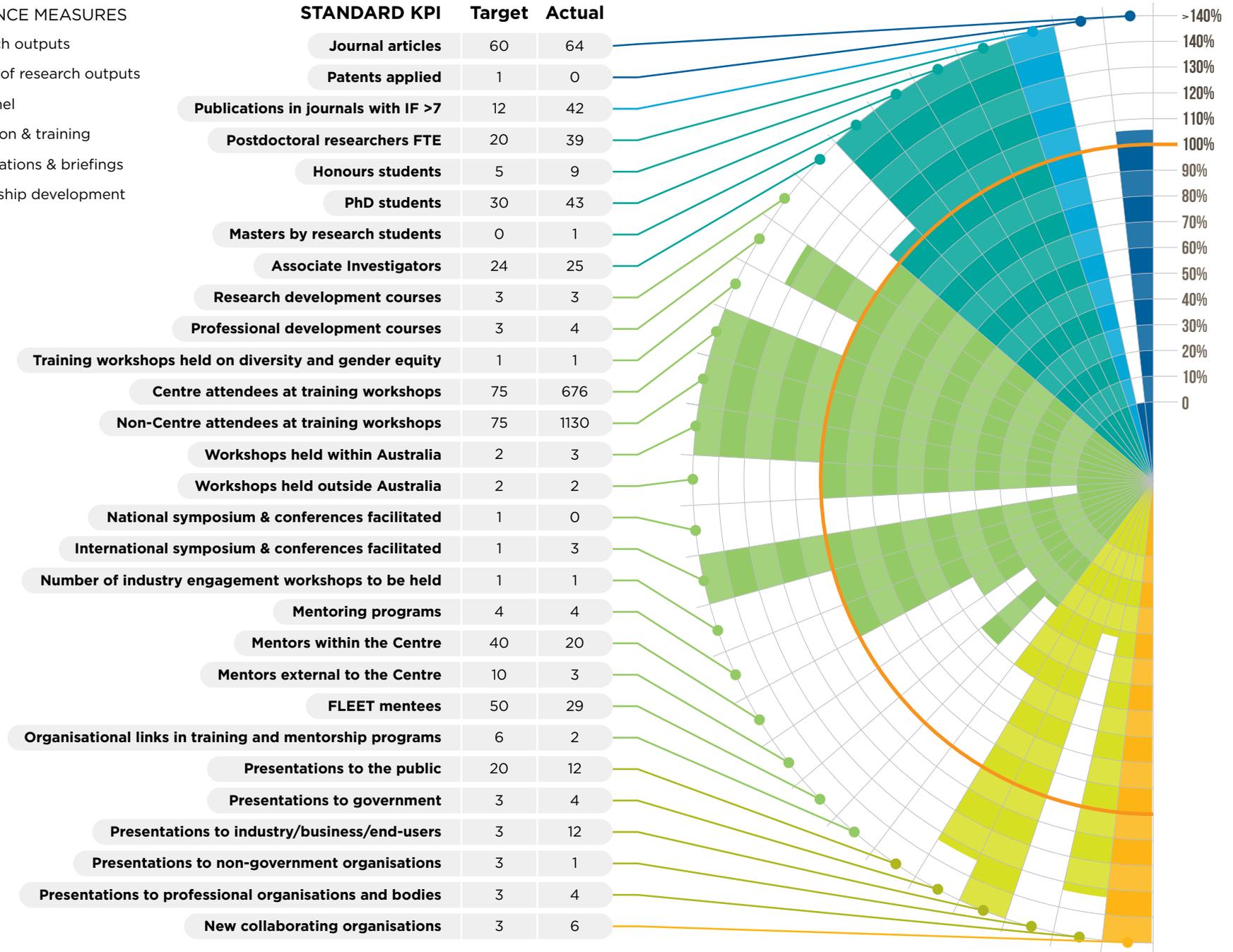
2018 marked the first full year of FLEET operations, and the Centre's scientific outputs have accelerated.

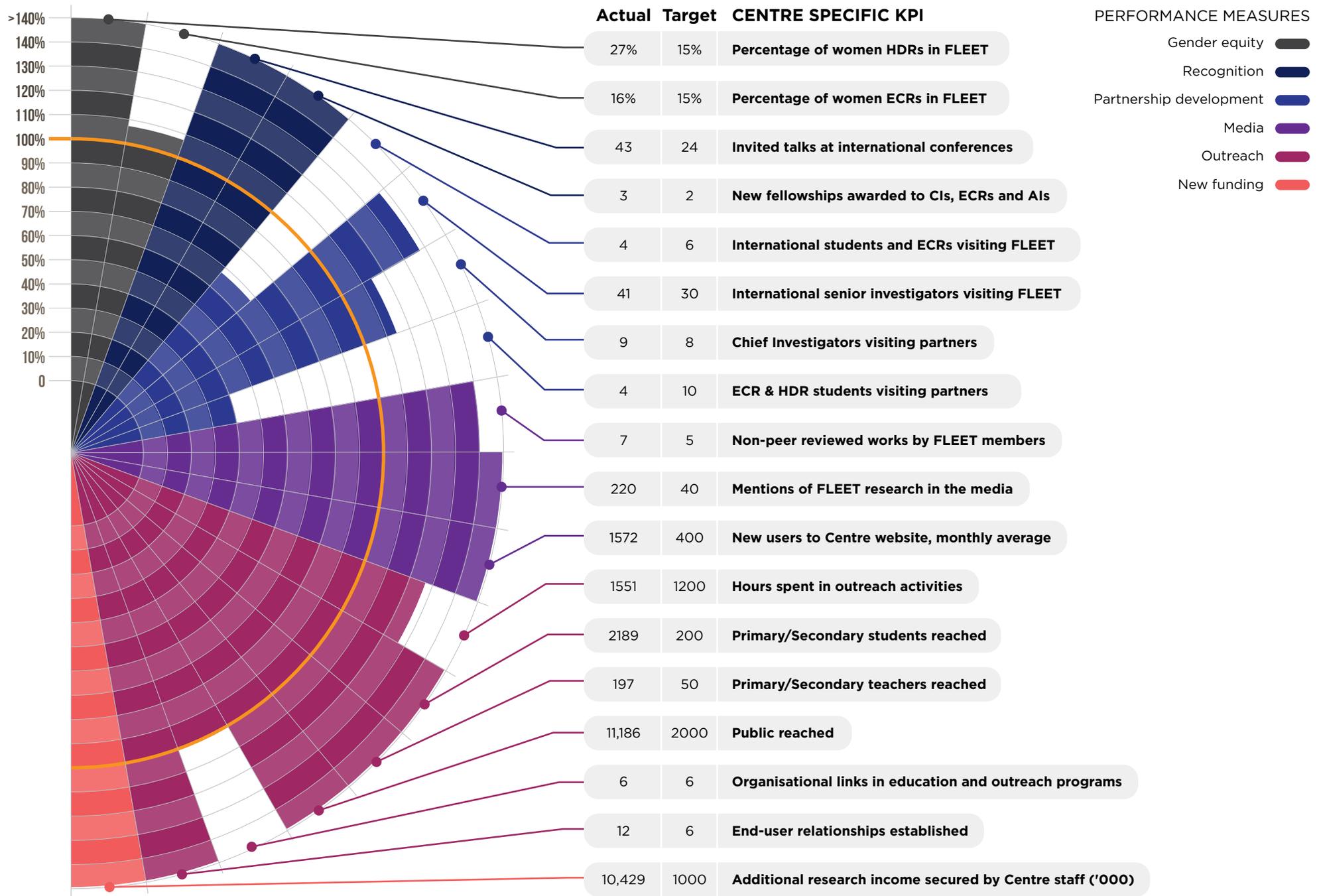


FLEET members, 2nd Annual Workshop, Magenta NSW.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- Research outputs
- Quality of research outputs
- Personnel
- Education & training
- Presentations & briefings
- Partnership development





PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- J.C. Abadillo-Uriel; J. Salfi; X. Hu; S. Rogge; M.J. Calderón; D. Culcer *Entanglement control and magic angles for acceptor qubits in Si* Appl. Phys. Lett. **2018** 113 1 12102 DOI: 10.1063/1.5036521 Impact factor 4 to 7
- N. Alaal; N. Medhekar; A. Shukla *Tunable electronic properties of partially edge-hydrogenated armchair boron-nitrogen-carbon nanoribbons* Phys. Chem. Chem. Phys. **2018** 20 15 10345 - 10358 DOI: 10.1039/C7CP08234G Impact factor 4 to 7
- P. Atkin; D.W.M. Lau; Q. Zhang; C. Zheng; K.J. Borean; M.R. Field; J.Zhen Ou; I.S. Cole; T. Daeneke; K. Kalantar-zadeh *Laser exposure induced alteration of WS₂ monolayers in the presence of ambient moisture* 2D Mater. **2018** 5 1 15013 DOI: 10.1088/2053-1583/aa91b8 to Impact factor 10 *
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CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

1. D. Culcer; H. Liu; A. Sekine; A.H. MacDonald; E. Marcellina; A.R. Hamilton *Anomalies in magneto-transport in spin-orbit coupled systems* Spintronics XI **2018** SPIE United States DOI: 10.1117/12.2323582 #
2. M.Ranjan Panda; A.Raj K.; Q. Bao; S. Mitra *MoTe₂ A novel anode material for sodium ion battery* 62nd DAE Solid State Physics Symposium **2018** AIP United States DOI: 10.1063/1.5029209

DOI Article Digital object identifier
* publications involving associate investigators
publications involving partner investigators

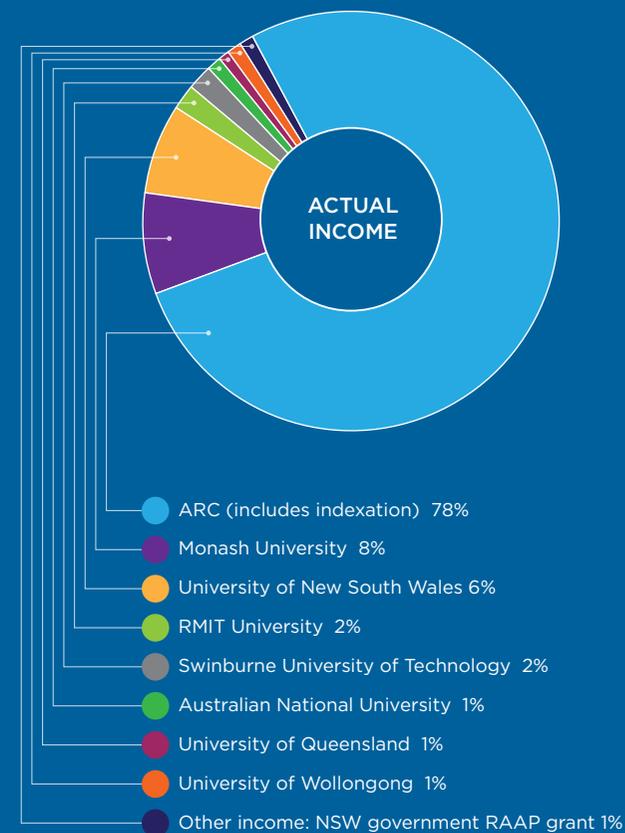
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AWARDS, HONOURS AND GRANTS

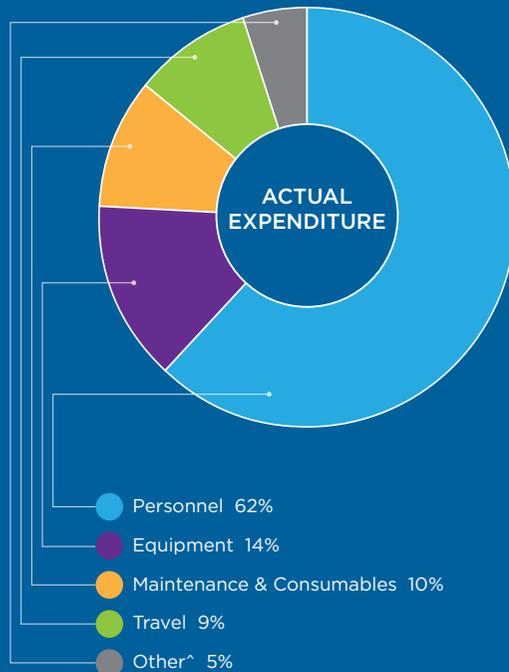
FLEET MEMBER INVOLVED	TITLE OF FUNDING SCHEME OR AWARD	PROJECT ID	TOTAL AMOUNT OF FUNDING (AUD)	FUNDING SOURCE / AWARDEE
Chris Vale, Matthew Davis, Kristian Helmerson, Meera Parish	Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities	LE180100142	\$727,900	Australian Research Council
David Cortie	Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA)	DE180100314	\$353,773	Australian Research Council
Jan Seidel	Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities	LE180100109	\$832,648	Australian Research Council
Jan Seidel	Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities	LE180100054	\$832,648	Australian Research Council
Jan Seidel, Nagarajan Valanoor, Oleg Sushkov	Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities	LE180100109	\$832,648	Australian Research Council
Jared Cole	Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities	LE180100037	\$223,039	Australian Research Council
Jian-zhen Ou	Discovery Projects	DP180102752	\$307,239	Australian Research Council
Jian-zhen Ou, Qiaoliang Bao	Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities	LE180100030	\$541,705	Australian Research Council
Kourosh Kalantar-zadeh	ARC Laureate Fellowship	FL180100053	\$3,162,000	Australian Research Council
Kristian Helmerson	Discovery Projects	DP180100872	\$402,993	Australian Research Council
Lan Wang	Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities	LE180100150	\$595,280	Australian Research Council
Michael Fuhrer, Mark Edmonds, Kourosh Kalantar-zadeh, Lan Wang, Jian-zhen Ou, Jan Seidel, Yuerui (Larry) Lu	Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities	LE180100054	\$824,080	Australian Research Council
Yuerui (Larry) Lu	Discovery Projects	DP180103238	\$402,934	Australian Research Council
Xiaolin Wang	Lee Hsun Research Award on Materials Science			Chinese Academy of Sciences
Lan Wang, Jared Cole	Lockheed Martin collaborative grant		Confidential	Lockheed Martin Pty Ltd
Harley Scammell	Fulbright Postdoctoral Scholarship, Sponsored by Monash University			Monash University
Mark Edmonds	Monash Centre for Atomically Thin Materials Grants		\$35,000	Monash University
Mark Edmonds, Michael Fuhrer, Agustin Schiffrin	Monash Centre for Atomically Thin Materials Grants		\$20,050	Monash University
Ziyu Wang	Outstanding Poster Prizes			Nanyang Technological University Singapore
Ali Zavabeti	Ford publication prize		\$1,000	RMIT University
Kourosh Kalantar-zadeh	2018 American Chemical Society (ACS) Advances in Measurement Science Lectureship Award (Asia-Pacific region)		\$3,500	RMIT University
Torben Daeneke	RMIT Award for Research Excellence - ECR Technology		\$3,000	RMIT University
Carlos Claiton Noschang Kuhn	Faculty of Science Engineering and Technology Travel Grant		\$1,200	Swinburne University
Oleh Klochan	UNSW Research Infrastructure Scheme		\$100,000	University of New South Wales
Tich-Lam Nguyen	VESKI Leading the Way - Women in STEM Side-by-Side			Victorian State Government

2018 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

REPORTING PERIOD	2018	2019
CARRY FORWARD FROM 2017	3,866,251	
INCOME	Actual (\$)	Forecast (\$)
ARC (includes indexation) 78%	4,842,058	4,750,000
Monash University 8%	496,000	496,000
University of New South Wales 6%	349,531	404,667
RMIT University 2%	154,572	154,667
Swinburne University of Technology 2%	116,000	116,000
Australian National University 1%	58,000	58,000
University of Queensland 1%	58,000	57,999
University of Wollongong 1%	58,000	58,000
Other income: NSW government RAAP grant 1%	70,000	-
TOTAL INCOME	6,202,161	6,095,333
EXPENDITURE	Actual (\$)	Commitment (\$)
Personnel	3,307,075	4,154,284
Equipment	752,942	257,855
Maintenance & Consumables	565,116	440,840
Travel	464,178	602,188
Centre Strategic Fund	-	122,293
Other	280,166	459,433
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	5,369,477	6,036,893
CARRY FORWARD TO 2019	4,698,933	



COLLABORATING ORGANISATION IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS



^OTHER INCLUDES:

- Equity & diversity initiatives
- Centre workshops
- Annual report
- Branding, marketing and PR
- Education, training and outreach programs
- Hosting visitors
- Administrative support

CONTRIBUTING ORGANISATION	2018 ACTUAL (\$)	2019 COMMITMENT (\$)
Monash University	1,013,376	689,857
University of New South Wales	455,750	759,041
RMIT University	351,509	345,301
Swinburne University of Technology	362,089	318,195
Australian National University	216,223	67,380
University of Queensland	95,768	159,529
University of Wollongong	110,987	126,921
Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation	308,480	436,000
Australian Synchrotron	363,418	240,465
Beijing Computational Science and Research Center	N/A	63,000
California Institute of Technology, USA	26,900	26,800
Columbia University, USA	16,200	36,200
Johannes Gutenberg-Universitat Mainz, Germany	10,200	30,200
Joint Quantum Insitute, USA	102,816	30,000
Max Planck Institute of Quantum Optics, Germany	17,925	34,425
National University of Singapore, Singapore	52,812	99,000
Tsinghua University, China	67,908	118,500
Universitat Wurzburg, Germany	27,512	19,512
University of Camerino	18,870	14,129
University of Colorado Boulder, USA	21,000	17,000
University of Maryland, USA	176,875	62,700
University of Texas, USA	18,000	31,000
Wroclaw University of Science and Technology	N/A	26,800
TOTAL IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS	3,834,618	3,751,955

VISITORS TO FLEET NODES

NAME OF VISITOR	INSTITUTION	COUNTRY	POSITION	VISIT DATES	NODES VISITED
Prof. Amadeo Vázquez de Parga	Universidad Autónoma de Madrid	Spain	Collaborator	22 January 2018 -21 December 2018	Monash
Prof. Pu Yu	Tsinghua University	China	Partner Investigator	30 January 2018 - 11 February 2018	Monash, UNSW, UOW
Prof. Shuyun Zhou	Tsinghua University	China	Partner Investigator	30 January 2018 - 11 February 2018	Monash, UNSW, UOW
Prof. Laurent Bellaiche	University of Arkansas	United States	Collaborator	4 February 2018 - 11 February 2018	Monash, UNSW
Prof. David Snoke	University of Pittsburgh	United States	Collaborator	15 February 2018 - 17 August 2018	ANU
Prof. Vladislav Kataev	Leibniz Institute for Solid State and Materials Research	Germany	Collaborator	10 March 2018	UNSW
Dr. Blanca Biel	University of Granada	Spain	Visiting Research Fellow	14 March 2018	Monash
Prof Bala Kavaipatti	Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay	India	Collaborator	5 April 2018	UNSW
Prof. Wen-Xin Tang	Chongqing University	China	Collaborator	10 May 2018	Monash
A/Prof. Timothy Liew	Nanyang Technological University	Singapore	Collaborator	6 June 2018 - 19 June 2018	ANU
Prof. Jianjung Zhang	Chinese Academy of Sciences	China	Collaborator	15 June 2018	UNSW
A/Prof. Shaffique Adam	National University of Singapore	Singapore	Partner Investigator	4 July 2018 - 10 August 2018	Monash, UNSW, Swinburne
Prof. Victor Gurarie	University of Colorado Boulder	United States	Partner Investigator	12 July 2018 -13 August 2018	Monash, Swinburne
A/Prof. Michael Fraser	RIKEN	Japan	Collaborator	22 July 2018 - 1 August 2018	ANU
Dr. Clemens Müller	ETH Zurich	Switzerland	Visiting Research Fellow	30 July 2018 - 2 August 2018	RMIT, UQ
Prof. Atsushi Fujimori	University of Tokyo	Japan	Collaborator	8 August 2018 - 8 September 2018	Monash
A/Prof. Dario Poletti	Singapore University of Technology and Design	Singapore	Collaborator	13 August 2018 - 17 August 2018	ANU
Dr Yimei Zhu	Department of Energy Brookhaven National Laboratory	United States	Collaborator	14 September 2018	UNSW
Yannick Schön	Karlsruhe Institute of Technology	Germany	Visiting PhD Student	3 October 2018 - 23 January 2019	RMIT
Prof. David Nielson	University of Camerino / University of Antwerp	Italy/Belgium	Partner Investigator	3 October 2018 - 18 December 2018	UNSW
Prof. Yijin Zhang	Max Planck Institute for Quantum Optics	Germany	Collaborator	31 October 2018 - 2 November 2018	UNSW
Prof. Ding Zhang	Tsinghua University	China	Collaborator	1 November 2018 - 2 November 2018	UNSW
Prof. Garnett Bryant	University of Maryland	United States	Collaborator	16 November 2018	UNSW
Prof. Gotz Uhrig	Technical University of Dortmund	Germany	Collaborator	22 November 2018	UNSW

NAME OF VISITOR	INSTITUTION	COUNTRY	POSITION	VISIT DATES	NODES VISITED
Prof. Simon Brown	University of Canterbury	New Zealand	Collaborator	1 December 2018 - 14 December 2018	Monash
Prof. Laurent Bellaiche	University of Arkansas	United States	Collaborator	1 December 2018 - 15 December 2018	UNSW
Prof. Michele Governale	Victoria University of Wellington	New Zealand	Collaborator	1 December 2018 - 15 December 2018	UNSW
Prof. Simon Granville	Victoria University of Wellington	New Zealand	Collaborator	1 December 2018 - 15 December 2018	UNSW
Prof. Ali Yazdani	Princeton University	United States	International Scientific Advisory Committee	1 December 2018 - 15 December 2018	Monash, UNSW
Prof. Barbaros Oezylmaz	National University of Singapore	Singapore	Partner Investigator	1 December 2018 - 15 December 2018	Monash
Prof. Victor Galitski	University of Maryland	United States	Partner Investigator	1 December 2018 - 15 December 2018	Monash
Dr. Bent Weber	Nanyang Technological University	Singapore	Scientific Associate Investigator	1 December 2018 - 15 December 2018	Monash
Prof. Shaffique Adam	National University of Singapore	Singapore	Scientific Associate Investigator	1 December 2018 - 15 December 2018	Monash, UNSW
Dr. Luke Fleet	Nature	United Kingdom	Editor	1 December 2018 - 16 December 2018	Monash, UNSW
Dr. Marcin Syperek	Wroclaw University of Science and Technology	Poland	Research Fellow from Partner Organisation	1 December 2018 - 31 December 2018	ANU
Prof. Suk-Ho Choi	Kyung Hee University	Korea, Republic of	Collaborator	1 December 2018 - 28 February 2019	UOW
Dr. Luigi Colombo	Texas Instruments / UT Dallas	United States	Advisory Committee	2 December 2018 - 7 December 2018	UNSW
Prof. Francois Peeters	University of Antwerp	Belgium	Collaborator	2 December 2018 - 7 December 2018	UNSW
Prof. Uli Zuelicke	Victoria University of Wellington	New Zealand	Collaborator	2 December 2018 - 7 December 2018	UNSW
Prof. James Hone	Columbia University	United States	Partner Investigator	9 December 2018 - 15 December 2018	Monash
Prof. Nancy Sandler	Ohio University	United States	Collaborator	10 December 2018 - 15 December 2018	Monash

VISITS TO PARTNERS

FLEET TRAVELLER(S)	INSTITUTION	COUNTRY	TRAVEL TYPE	DATES
Daisy Qingwen Wang	Nanyang Technological University Singapore	Singapore	ECRs and Students visiting FLEET partners	3 January 2018
Daisy Qingwen Wang	National University of Singapore	Singapore	ECRs and Students visiting FLEET partners	3 February 2018
Alex Hamilton	Tsinghua University	China	Chief Investigators visiting FLEET partners	10 March - 13 March 2018
Nagarajan Valanoor	University of Texas, Austin	United States	Chief Investigators visiting FLEET partners	12 March 2018
Nagarajan Valanoor	Tsinghua University	China	Chief Investigators visiting FLEET partners	28 June 2018
Oleg Sushkov	Max Planck Institute for Solid State Physics	Germany	Chief Investigators visiting FLEET partners	3 July - 17 July 2018
Dimi Culcer	Beijing Computational Science Research Center	China	Chief Investigators visiting FLEET partners	2 July - 18 July 2018
Kristian Helmerson	Joint Quantum Institute	United States	Chief Investigators visiting FLEET partners	18 September - 21 September 2018
Kristian Helmerson	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	United States	Chief Investigators visiting FLEET partners	24 September - 25 September 2018
Kristian Helmerson	University of Colorado Boulder	United States	Chief Investigators visiting FLEET partners	26 September - 27 September 2018
David Cortie	Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation	Australia	ECRs and Students visiting FLEET partners	14 October 2018 to 14 January 2019
Dimi Culcer	Beijing Computational Science Research Center	China	Chief Investigators visiting FLEET partners	16 November - 30 November 2018
Matthias Wurdack	University of Wuerzburg	Germany	ECRs and Students visiting FLEET partners	22 December 2018 to 20 January 2019



See [FLEET.org.au/annual-reports](https://www.fleet.org.au/annual-reports) for

- Boards and committees
- Workshops and seminars
- Media mentions
- Outreach events
- Home science activities



The scientific themes and approaches within FLEET are well structured and the Centre is showing signs of strong scientific results with some high impact publications.

Prof Ali Yazdani

FLEET International Scientific Advisory Committee, Princeton University





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OUR PARTNERS

FLEET is an Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence linking a highly interdisciplinary team of high-profile Australian and international researchers.



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