



**Weekly Wire**  
**News from East Asia and Pacific**  
**National Science Foundation**  
**Tokyo Regional Office**  
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**AUSTRALIA: CSIRO Seven**

The Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO: Australian Government R&D organization) has been pushing the edge of what is possible for generations. Now, CSIRO is working on what's next: a new generation, new thinking, and breakthroughs, through the CSIRO Seven project by selecting 7 young PIs in the fields of nutrition, futures, oceans, wearables, advanced materials, fisheries and digital. The details of the projects can be obtained from: <http://seven.csiro.au/About-the-project>

**JAPAN: MEXT JFY2016 STI Budget Request**

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) made the JFY2016 budget request to the Ministry of Finance (MOF). The major items of request of note are as below. Other Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)-related ministries/agencies have requested their budgets as well, and the total all-Japan STI-related budget requests are being compiled by the Cabinet Office. As 65% of Japan's STI budget is allocated to MEXT programs/projects, the table below may present Japan's priority areas.

Program/project	JFY2016 Request (Yen Billion)	~\$ Million @¥120/\$
Comprehensive project including artificial intelligence, <b>big data, Internet of Things, and Cybersecurity</b> (NEW)	10.0	83
<b>Local area innovation and ecosystem</b> formation program (NEW)	2.3	19
<b>Open innovation</b> acceleration by industry-university-government collaboration (NEW)	3.0	25
R&D on <b>earthquake, volcano, and disaster prevention</b>	15.5	129
Next-generation <b>semiconductor</b> R&D to contribute to energy-saving society	1.5	13
International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor ( <b>ITER</b> )	23.0	192
Comprehensive R&D in <b>medical fields</b>	70.4	587
Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research ( <b>KAKENHI</b> ): bottom-up-type, unsolicited research fund	242.0	2,017
Strategic <b>Basic Research Programs</b> run by the Science and Technology Agency ( <b>JST</b> )	51.4	428
Training of Science, Technology and Innovation <b>personnel</b>	3.9	33
Expansion of the <b>common use</b> of the government and university research facilities (NEW)	2.1	18
Development of post- <b>"K" supercomputer</b>	7.7	64
Maintenance and improvement of the <b>large-scale facilities</b> , including Spring-8, SACLA, J-PARC, and "K"	44.3	369
<b>Aerospace R&amp;D</b> , including a radar satellite that enables high resolution remote observation	190.7	1,589
Strategic promotion of <b>marine resources</b> exploration	21.5	179
R&D and Personnel training in <b>nuclear energy</b> fields	27.3	228

The requested budget will be negotiated between MEXT and the Ministry of Finance toward the end of December when the GOJ draft budget is determined. The draft budget will then be discussed at the Diet session from January-March 2016 to be finalized by the end of March to be executed from April 1, 2016.

*Source: MEXT homepage on budget*

## **NEW ZEALAND: Government Investment in 48 New Science Programs**

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) announced NZ\$96.5 million (\$61 million) investment in 48 new science programs in the 2015 science investment round. The new programs reflect the high quality of research across the country, which will boost New Zealand's productivity and competitiveness. The new programs include medical implants, insecticides, 3D printing, dairy goat infant formula, dental diagnostics, sensors, self-cleaning ceramic coatings, waterproof roads, family violence prevention and aquifer management. Of the total investment, NZ\$17.5 million (\$11 million) will be invested in idea-driven research through the "Smart Ideas" fund, and NZ\$79 million (\$59 million) in purpose-driven research through the "Targeted Research."

Source: <http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/965-million-new-science-research-programmes>