

## *Welcome: 50 years of Australian Innovation*



### **Pierre Dubois, Investment Director The Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade)**

The Australian Trade and Investment Commission, or Austrade, is the Australian Government's trade, investment and education promotion agency. It is a statutory agency within the Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio, with offices in overseas embassies and consulates, and representative arrangements in some other locations.

Pierre Dubois joined the Austrade Houston team as Investment Director in May 2017, helping support development of the Energy and Natural Resources as well as the Manufacturing sectors. His professional experience includes agency and corporate investor relations, sell-side investment research and banking.

Previous to Austrade he assisted publicly traded and pre-IPO companies with strategic investor relations and corporate communications plans to engage key stakeholders, including the institutional investment community.

Prior to his work with investor relations, he was a high yield bond analyst and banker covering Oil and Gas in Houston and New York City for National Westminster Bank PLC, Furman Selz and Bear Stearns.

Pierre earned his bachelor's degree in finance from The University of Texas at Austin and speaks fluent Spanish and basic French.

He is also a member of the National and Houston chapters of the National Investor Relations Institute.



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# *Creating the Intelligent Asset: Fusing IoT, Robotics, and AI*



**Jason Crusan**  
**Vice President of Technology**  
**Woodside Energy**

Woodside Energy Ltd. is the pioneer of the LNG industry in Australia and the largest Australian natural gas producer. Woodside's diverse global portfolio includes permit interests in Australia, Myanmar, Gabon, Ireland, Morocco, Peru, and Bulgaria.

As Vice President of Technology, Jason Crusan is responsible for identifying, developing and maturing technologies that increase production, reduce costs, and enable Woodside's people to work even more safely and efficiently.

Jason has more than 20 years experience in leveraging industry, academia and government partnerships to accelerate technology advancements across multiple industries.

Before joining Woodside in 2019, Jason worked for United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration, primarily in human spaceflight. He also served as the Director of the agency's Advanced Exploration Systems. In this role, Jason led many partnerships with the commercial industry, including the first flights to the International Space Station of human rated expandable habitats, additive manufacturing printers, and integrated 3D printers and recyclers.

Jason holds Bachelor degrees in Electrical Engineering and Physics, and a Masters degree in Computing Information Systems.



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# *Ocean Bottom Node Innovation: Applying Existing Technologies in a Novel Way*

**Michelle Thomas**  
**Head of Innovation**  
**BHP**

BHP Petroleum unit comprises conventional oil and gas operations, and includes exploration, development and production activities.

The company produces crude oil and condensate, gas and natural gas liquids (NGLs) that are sold on the international spot market or delivered domestically under contracts with varying terms, depending on the location of the asset.



Michelle Thomas joined BHP in 2017 and is currently Head of Innovation enabling growth across the Petroleum Portfolio including Exploration, Appraisal, Projects and Producing assets.

Michelle has over 20 years of industry experience, working in technical and leadership roles of increasing complexity and scale including management of exploration portfolio in South America, West Africa for Hess and more recently as the Head of Gulf of Mexico exploration for BHP. With a deep technical background in quantitative geophysics Michelle has also held a number of global functional support roles leading geophysical teams delivering business support, technical assurance, innovation and people development across the petroleum value chain at both Hess and BHP.

Michelle holds a BA(hons) in Earth Sciences from the University of Cambridge and a Master of Science in Petroleum Geology from the Institut Francais du Petrole.



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# *The Future of University-Industry Relations: An Australian Perspective*

**Mark Cassidy**  
Dean of the Melbourne School  
of Engineering  
University of Melbourne

The Melbourne School of Engineering at the University of Melbourne is a leading provider of engineering and IT education in Australia. Established in 1853, the University of Melbourne is a public-spirited institution that makes distinctive contributions to society in research, learning and teaching and engagement.



Professor Mark Cassidy joined University of Melbourne in July 2018 and is currently Dean of the Melbourne School of Engineering.

Prior to his appointment in Melbourne, Mark Cassidy was an Australian Research Council Laureate Fellow and Director of the internationally renowned Centre of Offshore Foundation Systems (COFS) at the University of Western Australia (UWA).

Mark's research interests are in offshore geotechnics and engineering, predominantly in developing models for the analysis of oil and gas platforms, mobile drilling rigs, renewable wave and wind turbines, anchors and pipelines.

Mark is the 2007 recipient of the Malcom McIntosh Prize for Physical Scientist of the Year - one of the Prime Ministers Prizes for Science. He is also a three-time recipient of the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE), as well as the 2012 recipient of the ICE's Geotechnical Research Medal for his paper on geotechnical engineering.



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