

Melbourne's Scientific Sector on Show for two High-profile Conferences

Victoria's scientific community will take centre stage at two high-profile international business events thanks to Melbourne's wins as host city for the International Mass Spectrometry Conference 2024 and International Symposium on Lepton and Photon Interactions 2023.

Combined these events will deliver an economic contribution to the state of \$13.2 million, 1,750 delegates and 6,650 room nights to boost the Victorian hotel and accommodation sector.

The coveted biotech and scientific conferences secured by the Melbourne Convention Bureau (MCB) with support from the Victorian State Government and Tourism Australia's Business Events Bid Fund Program, are testament to a winning 'Team Melbourne' approach and Victoria's global reputation as a leader in science.

Physicists from around the world will gather at International Symposium on Lepton and Photon Interactions 2023 to discuss the latest advancements in particle physics, nuclear physics, and astrophysics. Melbourne's strong particle physics community played a critical role in winning this event.

The International Mass Spectrometry Conference 2024 will provide a forum for scientists and academics to discuss research in their field. It will be the first time the conference has been held in Australia in its 66-year history.

Mass spectrometry is used in many fields including biotech where Melbourne leads the nation as home to more than 40 per cent of Australia's biomedical researchers, 650 biotech companies, and ten major medical research institutes.

Melbourne Convention Bureau Chief Executive Officer Julia Swanson said, "Hosting these meetings is a big win for Victoria's scientific community – who will be able to tap into and share a wealth of knowledge and gain exposure to world-leaders' advances in these fields of study globally and locally.

"Melbourne has an enviable reputation for hosting world class business events. It means future business for our hotels, restaurants and other small businesses, strengthening our economy and creating Victorian jobs," added Ms. Swanson.

Melbourne's outstanding conference venue, MCEC, extensive quality accommodation options and transport connectivity all helped to secure these business events for the state.

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Notes to editors: Additional quotes for use.

Quotes attributable to President Australia and New Zealand Society for Mass Spectrometry, Professor Gavin Reid.

"The Australia and New Zealand Society for Mass Spectrometry is excited to be selected to host the 25th International Mass Spectrometry Conference (IMSC) in Melbourne, in August 2024. First held in 1958, this will be only the second time that the IMSC will be hosted in the Southern Hemisphere, and also only the second time in the Asia-Oceania region. The conference will be an excellent opportunity to showcase the breadth of world class mass spectrometry research being conducted by Australian and New Zealand researchers."

"The Melbourne Convention Bureau was a critical partner in our successful efforts to attract this international conference to our region, particularly in securing substantial financial support, and also in preparing the bid documents and a website that showcased all that Melbourne has to offer to international visitors as a conference and holiday destination."

Quotes attributable to Bid leader for International Symposium on Lepton and Photon Interactions 2023, Professor Ulrik Egede, Monash University

"As a scientist, organising a bid to host an international conference is a confusing and demanding task. However, the assistance of MCB for obtaining quotes, preparing bidding material and replying to all my questions made it really easy. The professional help subsequently led to a successful bid."