

## SmartSat CRC and Elders Sign MOU to Drive Earth Observation Technology in Australian Agriculture

Adelaide, 13 September 2024 – [SmartSat Cooperative Research Centre](#) (SmartSat), Australia’s leading space research centre, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with [Elders](#) to explore the application of satellite-enabled earth observation technologies in agriculture.

This collaboration aims to transform agricultural practices by addressing challenges in emissions monitoring, pest management, and crop yield enhancement. The agreement marks a significant step towards integrating space technology into Australian agriculture for improved environmental and operational outcomes.

Under the MOU, both SmartSat and Elders have committed to using satellite-enabled earth observation technologies to address key challenges in Australian agriculture. The collaboration will focus on several critical areas. One major goal is to utilise satellite technology to monitor and report emissions from Elders' Killara feedlot, contributing to improved environmental management. Additionally, the parties will work together to apply these technologies to enhance the management of weeds, pests, and diseases in Australian grain cropping systems, further improving agricultural efficiency. Another priority is the use of satellite data to develop innovative techniques aimed at increasing both the quality and quantity of yields in the Australian viticulture industry, ultimately benefiting grape growers and winemakers across the country.

Professor Andy Koronios, CEO of SmartSat CRC, commented:

*“We are delighted to be partnering with Australia’s premier agricultural and rural services company to leverage the huge opportunity that space technologies offer to enhance food production and protect our environment. This partnership with Elders underscores the importance of earth observation technology in addressing some of the most pressing challenges in agriculture. By combining space-based data with on-the-ground expertise, we can enhance environmental monitoring and sustainable agricultural & farming practices across Australia.”*

Mark Allison, Managing Director and CEO of Elders, added:

*“Elders is committed to creating sustainable solutions for our customers and communities. Being at the forefront of agricultural innovation allows Elders to continue providing future focused solutions for our clients, ensuring their businesses remain resilient and profitable in our fast-changing world. To this end, we are delighted to be collaborating with SmartSat CRC to explore satellite-enabled earth observation technologies, for the benefit of Australian farmers and the wider sector.”*

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## **About SmartSat CRC**

The SmartSat Cooperative Research Centre brings together over 135 participating organisations, including national and international partners, with more than 400 researchers. With a portfolio of over 150 R&D projects across Advanced Communication, Connectivity and IoT Technologies, Advanced Satellite Systems, Sensors and Intelligence, and Next Generation Earth Observation Data Services, SmartSat continues to contribute to building Australia's space R&D capability. The SmartSat Cooperative Research Centre activities are funded by the Australian Government Department of Industry, Science and Resources through the Cooperative Research Centres Program. Find out more at [www.smartsatcrc.com](http://www.smartsatcrc.com).

## **About Elders**

As a trusted Australian agribusiness, Elders has played an important role in the agricultural sector for 185 years. Elders' expansive network across Australia offers links to markets, tailored advice and specialist knowledge across a range of products and services, including farm supplies, agronomy, livestock, wool, grain, finance, insurance, and real estate. With a focus on innovation, Elders is committed to a sustainable and prosperous future for rural and regional communities. [www.elders.com.au](http://www.elders.com.au)