

SRA announces investment in targeted milling research

Sugar Research Australia (SRA) has today announced the inaugural investment in a new research program called the Small Milling Research Program (SMRP) scheme.

The SMRP scheme was launched in 2017 as a way for SRA to invest in small milling sector projects that develop a product, service, or process that would solve targeted problems in sugar mills and deliver tangible outputs with almost immediate outcomes.

SRA is funding four new projects under the scheme in partnership with our Milling Members and their research partners.

The project investment is:

- Isis Central Mill to work with QUT and Neltec to evaluate the Neltec Colour Q for measuring the purity of magma from C centrifugals;
- Wilmar to work with QUT, Tully Sugar and Sugar Gateway Labs to understand the cause of high sugar colour;
- Mackay Sugar to work with QUT to improve the impact of evaporator calandria noxious gas bleeding arrangements on evaporator rate and condensate quality at Racecourse Mill; and
- Wilmar to work with TropWATER on optimising the operation and technology of activated sludge plants.

SRA CEO Mr Neil Fisher said that the SMRP was an opportunity to invest in lower-cost, short-term, industry-identified and industry-led research.

“This initiative has come in response to feedback from our milling investors and stakeholders, and in particular during the development of our *SRA Strategic Plan 2017/18 – 2021/22*,” Mr Fisher said.

“The SRA Board has approved this initiative to allow SRA to work on priority areas of research that align with the needs of our milling investors. The investment is included in our current total investment in our Key Focus Area (KFA) of *Milling Efficiency and Technology*.

“The scheme will strengthen collaborations between industry and research through the direct involvement of the milling sector in SMRPs and increase research skills and capability in sugar mills.”

The SMRP will be conducted again the 2018/19 financial year.