

Media Coverage

Jade Supports Initiative



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Amanda Warren

A funding deal with Jade Software has boosted Canterbury University's proposal to build an Innovation Institute.

Jade will contribute several hundred thousand dollars to the \$20 million information and communications technology research centre, which aims to link the university's research work with the needs of industry.

It will be funded in partnership with the Government and industry, with underwriting from the Christchurch City Council.

Jade's contribution will be used to

create the Jade Foundation, operating within the institute to develop research and teaching projects and offer PhD scholarships.

Jade Software Corporation managing director Rod Carr said the deal consisted of contribution in cash and in kind.

The "precise economic value" was a matter for the university to gauge, he said.

Carr said the company hoped the project would help it to stay at the forefront of emerging technologies.

Doctoral scholarships would be offered for work that helped the development of the company.

University of Canterbury Vice-Chancellor Roy Sharp said the deal with Jade showed how the institute would develop partnerships between the university and industry.

The university has already secured \$9.7m in funding through the Government's Partnerships for Excellence scheme. However, that funding is available only if the university

matches the grant with other contributions. The city council has agreed to underwrite the Innovation Institute project by \$5m to ensure the government funding was provided.



Big Deal: University of Canterbury Vice-Chancellor Professor Roy Sharp, left, and Jade Software founder Sir Gil Simpson, discuss investment papers for the university's ICT Innovation Institute

Photo: Don Scott