



World-leading molecular technology, developed in Australia, looks set to rapidly improve wheat grain.

## High-tech breeding boon

A NEW high-tech approach to wheat breeding is set to provide a boon to Australia's big-dollar wheat industry.

The world-leading molecular technology, developed in Australia, looks set to rapidly improve Australian wheat grain, and with it the industry's productivity and global competitiveness.

Its marketers say rapid adoption of the process is expected to add substantial impetus to the industry's efforts to move wheat from a bulk commodity status into more profitable, specialist value-added streams.

"This technology is way ahead of anything else being used or developed around the world at present," said Professor Bill Rathmell, co-director of Triticarte Pty Ltd, which is now launching the revolutionary genome profiling service on the Australian market.

Triticarte is a joint-venture spin-off from the one-third Federal Government-funded Value Added Wheat Cooperative Research Centre (VAWCRC), which developed the technology over the past 10 years, and

Diversity Arrays Technology Pty Limited.

The technology is aimed at helping wheat breeders accurately identify genetic traits.

This, in turn, would allow them to select plants with genes that promote desirable characteristics such as higher yields and improved sprout tolerance and the quality traits in demand from end-users.

Prof Rathmell, who is also managing director of the VAWCRC, said Triticarte was confident of a rapid uptake by industry and expected to earn about \$500,000 from Australian wheat breeders during the technology's first full year of commercial service.

He said breeders had also shown a great deal of support for the project – the research effort for which was jointly funded by VAWCRC and the Grains Research and Development Corporation.

Industry had also got behind the project, with Allied Mills and Arnotts Biscuits both long-term partners in the project, with the latter already using improved wheats from the research programs in its biscuit products.