

Media Release  
16 August 2011

## **Hill Laboratories wins major government R & D grant**

New Zealand's largest privately owned independent testing laboratory, Hill Laboratories, has been awarded a \$1.5 million research and development grant from the government.

The grant has just been announced as part of the latest Technology Development Grant investment round from the Ministry of Science and Innovation.

Hill Laboratories has its head office and laboratories in Hamilton, with a satellite laboratory in Christchurch and a sales office in Japan.

Hill Laboratories Managing Director, Roger Hill, says the grant is tremendous news for the company and will allow it to accelerate its R & D to an unprecedented level.

"Naturally we are delighted to have been awarded this very substantial grant. It is a huge vote of confidence in the role that Hill Laboratories can play in the future of New Zealand's development of science and technology.

"We'll be using the grant to accelerate our activity in scientific testing in three important export areas, in the wine, timber and honey industries. We believe the work that we have planned has the potential to add significant value to the New Zealand economy and it is very satisfying to know that the Ministry of Science and Innovation is supporting us," says Dr Hill.

The three specific projects on which Hill Laboratories will be using its R & D grant include a new wine-testing programme that enables more economical and accurate testing using technology that was developed in conjunction with an American company.

Hill is also further researching different testing methods for chemical preservatives in wood that has significant cost saving opportunities for the timber industry. In addition Hill Laboratories is also developing new tests in support of the honey industry.

The Technology Development Grant supports firms with a good track record in research and development and which spend a significant proportion of their revenue on R&D. Almost \$52 million will be invested in this round into 20 businesses in the high value-manufacturing sector. Grants will be awarded for an initial three-year period and the final amount a business receives will depend on their actual R & D expenditure during that period.