

Tuesday 21 July 2015

## STEM AND NEIL ARMSTRONG – LETS ‘REBOOT THE SUIT’

A bid to save Neil Armstrong’s spacesuit could provide inspiration for more Australians to take up Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths skills.

CPA Australia chief executive Alex Malley, who conducted the only interview the legendary astronaut did about this life, says a lack of STEM skills is holding back Australia’s international competitiveness.

Malley says that reflecting on Neil Armstrong and his famous suit could remind us of what can be achieved through innovation.

“A few years back I had the extraordinary privilege of spending time with Neil Armstrong. He spoke passionately about how vision came together with the science and technology expertise of NASA to enable him and his colleagues to travel to the moon and return home safely,” Malley said.

“It’s a classic example of how STEM — Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths — is at the heart of all great innovations around the world.

“When I saw this week the Smithsonian Institution in the United States launching its first crowdsource funding to raise \$US500,000 to pay for the conservation of Neil Armstrong’s spacesuit, I knew I had to get involved.

“It is the courage, conviction and belief which Neil Armstrong and NASA showed by sending a man to the moon that we all should marvel at. This is the type of inspiration we need for Australian students so they also look ahead and dare to dream.

**“The conservation of Neil Armstrong’s spacesuit, a true symbol of what human endeavour can achieve, is a cause that I have today personally supported.**

“I am often asked why Neil Armstrong agreed to be interviewed by an Aussie accountant.

“The answer is our lunchtime meeting in Beaver Creek in Dayton, Ohio where I lamented that we seemed to have lost touch with his era where the world was then 90 per cent vision, ten per cent risk management.

“I noted that with all the sophistication of today, we have somehow reversed that percentage and encouraged him to share his insights to inspire future generations.

“Neil’s spacesuit is emblematic of vision and courage. Preserving it is a timely reminder that the imbalance between risk management and vision needs to be addressed.

“A re-emphasis on vision, through STEM, is critical to driving our nation’s future prosperity by creating and sustaining the jobs of the future.

“Without these skills, our ability to transition from iron ore and coal to a knowledge-based economy will be severely stunted.

# MEDIA RELEASE



“If you would like to join me in supporting this initiative to preserve a true symbol of one of mankind’s greatest achievements please visit <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/smithsonian/reboot-the-suit-bring-back-neil-armstrongs-spacesu>

-ENDS

**Contact:** Bryce Prosser on 0416 968 444 or [Bryce.Prosser@cpaustralia.com.au](mailto:Bryce.Prosser@cpaustralia.com.au)

BE HEARD.  
BE RECOGNISED.

