

Fibres future for city

THIS unassuming machine is the prototype of the short nanofibre production machine that is set to transform the manufacturing landscape of Geelong.

Back in February, Austeng's Ross George handed the prototype over to Cytomatrix chief executive Professor Mark Kirkland for experimentation.

Now, it's all systems go after last week's funding announcement by the State Government at the launch of the Geelong Future Industry Project that acknowledged the importance of the new industry.

Short nanofibres have a range of groundbreaking applications, including treatment of disease, stem cell programs, and water and air filtration.

But it won't be the means of production that will be sold to the world from its Geelong base.

"Central to all of them (the groundbreaking applications) is the ability to manufacture them (nanofibres) in a reliable way in high volume," Prof Kirkland said.

"We don't want to sell the machine, we want to sell the fibres."

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NANO, NANO: Cytomatrix chief executive Mark Kirkland, right, and Austeng's Ross George with the prototype nanofibre machine. Now a commercial-sized machine can produce a greater volume of the specialised fibres.

Photo: MARGARET LINLEY

