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7th August: Wagin
Conference, Exhibition, Networking

8th August: Katanning
Workshops, Demonstrations, Networking

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-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE-

Western Australia's premier agricultural technology and innovation event returns in 2019

Following its growth in success from its inaugural year in 2015, The highly-anticipated TECHSPO will be returning to Western Australia on the 7th & 8th August 2019.

Southern Dirt's TECHSPO aims to be Western Australia's premier technology and innovation event for the Agricultural community and associated industries. The event will be held over two days in Wagin and Katanning respectively.

TECHSPO will be bringing technology developers, farmers, advisors, expert researchers and officials together for two jam-packed days of advanced agriculture technology, information sharing and collaboration with an optional study tour for those who want to experience more. Topics that will be unpacked include virtual sales yards, augmented reality in farming, robotics in agriculture and provenance and traceability trends. Increased investment and rapid advancements in these technologies have not only improved their affordability, but also allowed for the industry to mature in recent years and demonstrate real returns on investment to farmers.

Southern Dirt's CEO Tracey Hodgkins believes TECHSPO is this year's must-see event on the Western Australian Agricultural calendar. "TECHSPO is the only event in WA to showcase Agricultural Technology and its connection to profit for farmers. It is one event that farmers and the industry cannot miss. If you go to just one event this year – make it TECHSPO".

This event format is based on a mixture of conference and in-field demonstrations. On day one of TECHSPO, experts in agricultural innovation from Australia and abroad will share their knowledge and provide inspirational forums that address technological advancements in agriculture, whilst exhibitors will be showcasing innovative products and services set to revolutionise the face of Australian farming in the future. On day two, TECHSPO will offer working demonstration areas that allow participants to learn experientially which has long been acknowledged in agriculture as a primary extension tool: farmers can touch feel and see the technologies first hand. This will be held at the Katanning Research Station, commencing with workshops which explore ways to integrate technology into farming and then moving into field demonstrations which showcase the viability of these technologies on a property.

The event will demonstrate areas that are critical for farming in this state - Livestock technologies for sheep, cattle, and other animals, broadacre cropping technologies, big data and new apps, machinery and Greentech.

The SwarmBot robot, created by future-focused Agtech company SwarmFarm Robotics, will be a must-see at this year's conference. SwarmFarm's vision is to empower farmers with new farming systems, and has built an "open developer" system, whereby any developer, anywhere in the world can release new Agtech, tools and attachments on board the SwarmBot robot. The SwarmBot's initial applications include spraying, spreading

and mowing, and TECHSPO delegates will have an exclusive chance to see the SwarmBot in action.

Evan Hall, Southern Dirt Chair, believes TECHSPO is unique in the direct access it provides to global AgTech thought leaders and their technologies. "The event offers a fantastic opportunity to take in the best the industry has to offer and a chance to see, hear and speak to true leaders in their fields. TECHSPO is THE go to Ag innovation and technology event in Western Australia. Don't miss this one!"

Tickets are limited and will sell through quickly. Early bird tickets are now available **at \$55 off the regular ticket price** for a limited time. To view the current program of activities, purchase your early bird tickets and take a sneak-peek at TECHSPO's impressive line-up, visit www.techspo.com.au.

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ABOUT SOUTHERN DIRT

Southern Dirt aims to create and sustain vibrant, healthy, prosperous farms and communities.

Southern Dirt is one of Western Australia's leading grower groups, encompassing some of WA's most productive land and representing some of the states' most innovative farmers. Our region extends from Boddington to Frankland and everywhere in between from the coast to the Wheatbelt - an area that encompasses over 2600 mixed farming enterprises. If you farm, live and/or run a business within this area, Southern DIRT can have direct relevance to you.

Supported by a dedicated committee of farmers and industry specialists our aim is to create and sustain vibrant, healthy, prosperous farms and communities through:

- The delivery of innovative research and development activities that have high value impact on farmers in our region and throughout Australia
- Introduction, information and showcasing of innovative technologies and systems
- Interactive collaborations with Government – local, state and federal, Leading R and D companies, Industry bodies, other Grower Groups, Agricultural R and D funding bodies, education institutions and local community organisations and businesses within the region.
- Alliances and amalgamations with smaller grower and NRM groups in the region.
- Development of a highly interactive hub model to manage local engagement
- Social and community events and workshops

Southern Dirt also has a young farmers network that aims to support, coach and inspire our young and developing farmers to grow a sustainable agribusiness and cultivate personal and professional relationships across WA's Southwest and beyond.