

University of Technology Sydney response to questions from The Australian:

UTS treats all international partnerships seriously and they are a key part of our research strategy. UTS has had no need, to date, to report any potential foreign influence under relevant Australian legislation. The university believes international academic collaboration brings multiple benefits to the people of Australia and encourages all its staff to partner with peers overseas.

Professor Guoxiu Wang is Director of the Centre for Clean Energy Technology and a Distinguished Professor at UTS. He is an expert in energy storage and conversion, and battery technologies that provide clean energy for electric cars, renewable energy storage and other forms of transport.

He has published more than 500 refereed journal papers and delivered 100 keynote/invited talks/seminars worldwide. His publications have attracted over 40,000 citations from other academics.

We reiterate that Professor Wang is not now, nor has he ever been, a participant in China's Thousand Talents Program.

He has, however, long collaborated with universities in China on academic research, and has co-published papers with Chinese academics, to the benefit of Australia, China and the global community. His research has brought international funding to Australia that has supported our local economy and jobs, and brought knowledge to our country for the benefit of local industries.

We would like to point out that the archived weblinks provided by The Australian are simply reports of meetings between Professor Wang and local academic collaborators, written by the universities themselves. It is quite common for universities in China to loosely refer to esteemed academics as "Thousand Talents Scholars" as a sign of respect akin to the term "Distinguished Professor". They are not meant to literally signify that the academic is a part of a formal Chinese Government sponsored program. These weblinks are not on official Chinese government websites as claimed by The Australian.

Statements by The Australian about patents held by Professor Wang also contain a number of errors and inaccuracies.

For example, the majority of the 11 patent applications (they are not patents, none have been granted) are assigned to Guangdong University of Technology. Only one patent application is listed with Dongguan University of Technology.

Regardless, Professor Wang has no knowledge of 10 out of the 11 patent applications referenced. The 11th patent application is known to the university and results from a funded research collaboration.

We understand that it is not unusual within China for academic collaborators to submit patent applications associated with published research papers. The UTS threshold for any patent applications arising from collaborative academic publications is materially higher than appears in these cases.

Professor Wang has contacted the relevant parties to ask that his name be taken off these applications.