UWA Chair undertaking four-month sabbatical at Chevron’s Richmond office

Chevron Australia is set to benefit from a four-month sabbatical by University of Western Australia (UWA) Chevron Chair of Gas Process Engineering Professor Eric May to Chevron’s Energy Technology Company facility at Richmond in the United States.

Professor May, who has won numerous awards for his research into gas process engineering, including the Prime Minister’s Science Prize in 2012, said he was delighted to be undertaking a sabbatical at Chevron’s Richmond office, as it was world-renowned for its expertise in process, analytical and catalysis technology development.

“Staff at Richmond have developed cutting-edge techniques for developing and deploying novel materials for gas separation, which I am keen to learn about and see how they can be applied to the research projects I am working on for Chevron,” he said.

“In addition, the sabbatical will provide me with a greater understanding about Chevron’s processes and culture, which will further improve the quality and impact of our research at UWA.”

Professor May was appointed the first Chevron Chair in Gas Process Engineering in 2009, after Chevron signed a University Partnership Program agreement with UWA to establish a world-class capability in gas process engineering teaching and research. In 2011, Chevron endowed the Chair in perpetuity.

As part of the agreement, the Chair provides research support for major Chevron projects. Considered a leader in his field, Professor May has developed several breakthrough techniques for measuring gas properties under near-critical conditions, enabling better computer models for designing and optimising gas processing plants.