



Innovate to Grow: Digital Technologies and Artificial Intelligence

Applications are open for a free 10-week program for small-to-medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) working on a digital technology or artificial intelligence solution and exploring how research and development (R&D) can advance your project or idea.

Build your R&D idea

SMEs play a key role in growing Australia's digital technologies and artificial intelligence capability, but taking an R&D idea and turning this into reality can sometimes be a daunting prospect.

Our free self-paced 10-week program will build your skills to help you refine your innovation idea and turn this into a R&D opportunity.

Apply today

Applications close: 21 July 2024

Program starts: 15 August 2024

csiro.au/digitechAI

Key program outcomes

Personalised support to refine your idea: We'll step you through the process of turning your idea into a viable research project.

Confidential feedback: All submissions through the program portal will receive prompt expert feedback.

Mentor: You will be paired with a researcher from CSIRO or a university to help connect you with a relevant specialist.

Build your network: You will build key contacts in your sector, including researchers and other SMEs.

Key program outputs include how to:

- Create a strong research question for your idea
- Assess the value of your innovation
- Work out your collaboration options
- Compose a high impact R&D business case
- Prepare a funding application.

Commitment and course outline

Preparing for the program (3–4 hours)

Pre-workshop videos, onboarding, materials and questionnaire.

Week 1 (Official start date, 15 August)

Workshop (4.5 hours)

Guest speakers from CSIRO, sector experts and SMEs who will provide tips and information on topics such as trends and opportunities, innovation experience and funding. You will also meet your fellow participants and mentor.

Weeks 2–10

Self-paced innovation program (2–3 hours per week)

Participants explore opportunities to grow their business through innovation and research.

Fortnightly virtual webinars for participant networking and guest speakers.

A final questionnaire is required at completion.

CSIRO Innovate to Grow is delivered using [Practera's](#) online ed-tech platform and facilitation services.

For further information

InnovatetoGrow@csiro.au
csiro.au/digitechAI

Who can attend

Participants based and operating in Australia who are working on digital technologies or artificial intelligence solutions in any of these sub-sectors:

- Artificial intelligence, including
 - Computer vision
 - Machine learning
 - ChatGPT / large language models
 - Natural language processing
- Digital manufacturing
- Quantum computing
- Cybersecurity
- Robotics and autonomous systems
- Others

Selection criteria (essential):

- A business based and operating in Australia that is registered with an ABN and ACN/ICN
- A business classified as small to medium or startup (<200 employees)
- An R&D idea to work on throughout the program that includes digital technologies or artificial intelligence

Please note: Sole traders, partnerships and Australian subsidiary companies of foreign entities are not eligible. Researchers working at universities can apply as a mentor but not a participant.

Other considerations:

- Any other information provided to support your application
- Have a clear need to develop your knowledge and skills in R&D

'The concepts and structure are well-suited for many SMEs, and I would recommend the program to colleagues within the target audience. Moving forward, I am actively pursuing my R&D plan within my business. Additionally, I am collaborating with my mentor on a new R&D project opportunity that was announced during the program.'

– Luis Elneser, Lurra Systems