



Coach a business to help it Innovate to Grow

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) play a critical role in growing Australia's economy, but the concept of translating an idea into an innovation through research and development (R&D) can be an overwhelming and daunting task if you haven't experienced it before.

CSIRO's Innovate to Grow program is a free 8-week program helping businesses to build their skills and refine their novel ideas into a tangible R&D opportunity with commercial applications.

The program is delivered virtually using Practera's online ed-tech platform and facilitation services.

What is the role of an R&D coach?

A highlight of the program is to connect SMEs with coaches, to help them understand:

- how to convert their business idea into a research question
- how to work with publicly funded research organisations (including general information about timing and expectations)
- connect SMEs to relevant researchers for expert advice and project discussions
- work collaboratively with the other coaches and innovation team to assist the SME group.

Who can apply to be an R&D coach?

Researchers or people working with research teams within CSIRO or at Australian universities are encouraged to become coaches.

Benefits of being an R&D coach

- Support the increase of industry R&D knowledge.
- Work directly with exciting and innovative Australian SMEs.
- Develop coaching and advisory skills like communication, problem solving and networking with support from the CSIRO program facilitators.
- Practice translating scientific knowledge and expertise into industry language.
- Increase professional networks through new connections in the program.
- Receive a certificate for your participation.

Coaches are assigned 3–4 SMEs to work with but will be introduced to the whole group and work as a team with other coaches. We estimate you will need 2 hours per week across the 8-week period.

What previous R&D coaches have said

“This is an excellent opportunity to participate and hopefully contribute to a very important part of the Australian commercial and technological landscape.”

Berto Pandolfo, University of Technology Sydney (Advanced manufacturing program)

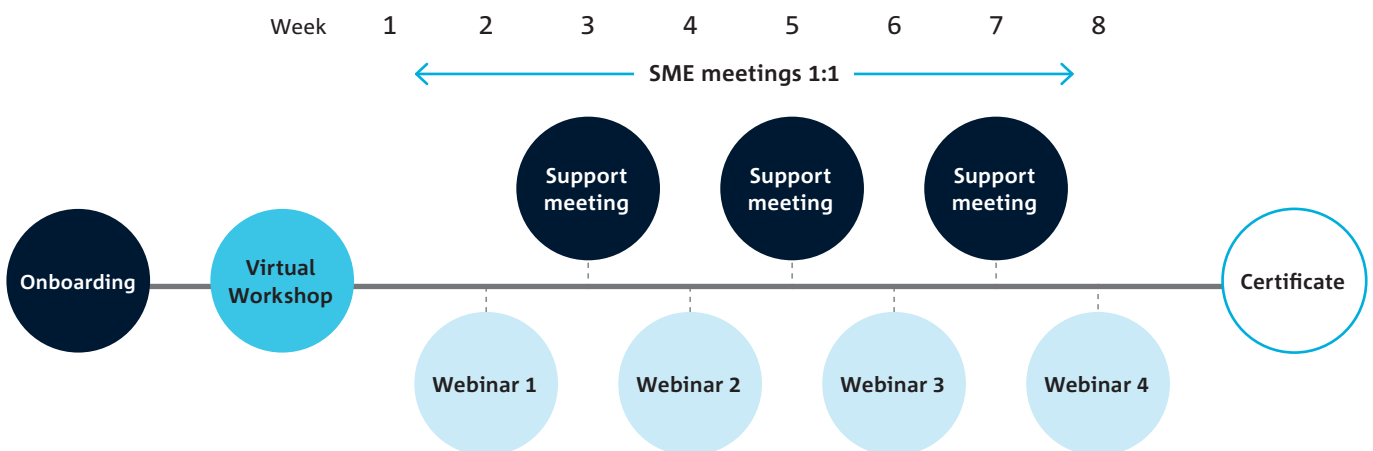
“The program provides a perfect platform to communicate with SMEs and understand their dynamics. This experience can be heavily beneficial for the mentors in future interactions with SME-based industry partnerships.”

Chamikara Mahawaga Arachchige, CSIRO’s Data61 (Cyber security program)

“The mentor program provides an excellent platform for engagement between industry and researchers. The training materials in the Practera are great and it is very helpful to improve my communication with the industry. This program also helped me to engage with researchers from other universities.”

Dr Feifei Bai, Griffith University (Energy program)

Innovate to Grow timeline



Apply to become an R&D coach today!

To apply, or for more information, email InnovatetoGrow@csiro.au

Please include your sector of interest or area of expertise.

As Australia’s national science agency, CSIRO is solving the greatest challenges through innovative science and technology. CSIRO. Creating a better future for everyone.