



Innovate to Grow program: Cyber security and digital technology

Applications are open for a free 10-week program for small- to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) working on innovative solutions in cyber security and/or digital technology to explore how research and development (R&D) can advance their project or idea.

Build your R&D idea

Small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) play a key role in growing Australia's cyber security and digital technology industry. 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.

Register today

Applications close: 17 September 2023

Program starts: 12 October 2023

csiro.au/cyberdigitech

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 the relevant specialists.

Build your network: You will build key contacts in your sector, including researchers at CSIRO and universities, domain experts, funding professionals and other SMEs.

Key things covered include:

- Identifying your innovation opportunities
- Refining your value proposition
- Understanding the R&D viability
- Helping you build your business case
- Providing guidance on how to prepare a strong funding application

Commitment and course outline

Preparing for the program (3–4 hours)

Pre-workshop videos, onboarding, materials and questionnaires.

Week 1 (Official start date, 12 October)

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 will work through the online innovation program at their own pace, supported by a mentor and experienced innovation facilitators to develop and test their research idea and business case.

Fortnightly virtual webinars for participant networking and guest speakers.

A final questionnaire is required at completion.

'I believe the program is a great way to distil and crystallise a specific project scope. Regardless of funding opportunities the ability to narrow down the scope of a potential project is extremely valuable.'

– Chris Pistilli, Lead Consultant, Synergy Managed

Who can attend

Participants working on an idea in cyber security and/or digital technology. This can be in any sub-sector including:

- Cybersecurity
 - AR/VR/XR
 - Digital identity
 - Digital manufacturing
 - Digital twins
- Artificial intelligence/machine learning
- Robotics and autonomous systems
- ChatGPT/large language models

Selection criteria (essential):

- Business classified as small to medium (<200 employees)
- A business with an R&D idea to work on throughout the program related to cyber security and/or digital technology
- An Australian registered and operating business with an ABN and ACN/ICN
Please note: Sole traders and Partnerships are currently not eligible for the program

Other considerations:

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

'I found the program rewarding, enjoyable and thought provoking. It may not be a good fit for every organisation but for those looking to understand more about developing a process of innovation and learning how to engage with research institutes it was very useful.'

– Julian Fay, Chief Technology Corporation, Senetas

CSIRO awards places to businesses based on the strength of the application, and a clear interest and capacity to pursue R&D. We also include participants from a variety of industry sub-sectors and regions.

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

For further information

csiro.au/cyberdigitech
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