Regional University Industry Collaboration Program

Innovate to Grow (Queensland): Digital Technologies and AI

Applications are open for a free 8-week program for small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) working on digital technologies and artificial intelligence (AI) solutions. The program supports participants to explore how research and development (R&D) can advance your project and ideas. *Delivered as part of the Queensland Government funded Regional University Industry Collaboration (RUIC) program.*

Build your R&D idea

SMEs play a key role in growing Australia's innovation capability, but having the right support is critical to success.

Our free 8-week program will help build your skills and networks so you can learn how to advance your idea with R&D.

Apply today

Applications close: 27 September 2026

Program starts: 15 October 2026

www.csiro.au/DigiTech

Key program outcomes

Refine your idea: We'll step you through the process of turning your idea into a viable research project.

Confidential feedback: Meet with a CSIRO facilitator to discuss program exercises and business challenges.

Coaching: Learn more about research projects and get connected to an expert with help from an R&D coach.

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

Key program outputs include how to:

- Identify strengths and weaknesses of your business idea
- Build your R&D project plan
- Develop your project roadmap and funding strategy
- Review your business idea and create a list of priorities and actions.

Commitment and course outline

Preparing for the program (3–4 hours)
Virtual onboarding session, pre-workshop video and reading materials.

Program start: 15 October 2026
Workshop (3.5 hours)
Guest speakers from CSIRO, sector experts and SMEs who will provide tips and information on topics such as trends and opportunities and innovation experience You will also meet your fellow participants and R&D coach.

Weeks 1–8
Program timeline (2–3 hours per week)
You'll explore opportunities to grow your business through innovation and research.

Fortnightly virtual webinars for participant networking and guest speakers.

Who can attend

Participants based and operating in Queensland Australia working on digital technologies and AI solutions. This can be in any of the following sub-sectors:

- Artificial intelligence, including
  - computer vision
  - machine learning
  - GPTs and LLMs
  - natural language processing etc.
- Digital manufacturing
- Quantum manufacturing and computing
- Cybersecurity
- Robotics and autonomous systems
- Other.

Selection criteria (essential):

- A business based and operating in Queensland Australia that is registered with an ABN
- A business classified as small to medium (<200 employees)
- An R&D idea to work on throughout the program related to any of the subsectors listed.

Please note: Australian subsidiary companies of foreign entities are not eligible.

Other considerations:

- A strong alignment to the purpose of the program
- A clear desire to investigate a R&D project.

Hear from a previous program participant:

'Innovate to Grow will support our future R&D planning and improvements, with the exercises serving as a compass while we're already working in the field.'

– Mr Ray Kwon, BeeSTAR.

CSIRO Innovate to Grow is delivered using Practera's online ed-tech platform and facilitation services.

For further information:
Email: InnovatetoGrow@csiro.au or visit www.csiro/DigiTech

The Regional University Industry (RUIC) Program is funded by the Queensland Government and delivered by CSIRO.