



Innovate to Grow: Advanced Manufacturing

Applications are open for a free 8-week program for small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) working on advanced manufacturing solutions. The program supports participants to explore how research and development (R&D) can advance their project or ideas.

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 online 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: 22 March 2026

Program starts: 23 April 2026

www.csiro.au/advancedmanufacturing

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.

Coaching: You will be paired with R&D coach 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:

- 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)

Onboarding session, pre-workshop video and reading materials.

Program start: 23 April 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, innovation experience and funding. You will also meet your fellow participants and R&D coach.

Weeks 1–8

Program timeline (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.

Who can attend

Participants based and operating in Australia who are working on advanced manufacturing solutions including any sub-sector such as:

- Additive manufacturing
- Advanced materials and processes
- Composites
- Digital, robotics and automation
- Mechatronic design and precision engineering
- Quality assurance and measurement
- Quantum technology
- Sensors and IoT

Selection criteria (essential):

- A business based and operating in 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 advanced manufacturing

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.

Previous participant feedback

"The course was extremely valuable and well structured. It provided clear guidance on what is required to plan and execute an R&D focused innovation project."

– Mr Damien Stein, Energy & Resources Technical Services

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.au/advancedmanufacturing