



Innovate to Grow program: Defence Victoria/Tasmania

Applications are open for a free 10-week program for small to medium enterprises (SMEs) to investigate new research and development (R&D) opportunities relevant to the defence industry.

Build your R&D idea

Small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) play a key role in Australia's defence industry. How confident are you taking an R&D idea and turning this into reality?

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

Register today

Applications close: 10 October 2022

Program starts: 17 October 2022

csiro.au/InnovatetoGrow

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

Pre-workshop | Preparing for the program (~2 hours)
Pre-workshop videos, materials and questionnaires.

Week 1 | 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 participant networking events and additional webinars (1 hour each).

A final questionnaire is required at completion.

"Significant benefits of being part of the 'ecosystem' – from which associations and opportunities flow."

– Amanda Falconer, Founder and CEO,
Former participant

Who can attend

Participants working to support the defence industry in Victoria and Tasmania. This can be in any sub-sector including;

- Integrated intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.
- Enhanced human performance.
- Medical countermeasures.
- Advanced materials.
- Advanced sensors or quantum technologies.
- Autonomous systems.
- Space.

Selection criteria (essential):

- An Australian registered and operating business with an ABN and ACN/ICN.
- A business operating in Victoria and Tasmania.
- Business classified as small to medium (<200 employees).
- A business currently, or in the early stages of, exploring R&D opportunities for their business and have an idea to work on throughout the course.

Other considerations:

- Currently working in the defence sector or working in another area but have identified a new opportunity relevant to the defence industry.
- Any other information provided to support your application.
- Have a clear need to develop your skills in R&D.

"The perfect solution in the current times ... nobody knows their product/markets and how to improve them like SMEs, they just don't have the resources to develop them. This course taps that knowledge rich base and links with the resources."

– Hamish Shaw, GM, Former participant

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

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