Innovate to Grow: Mining and Critical Minerals

Applications are open for a free 8-week program for small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) working in the mining and critical minerals sector. The program helps participants 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: 28 September

Program starts: 16 October

www.csiro.au/I2Gcriticalminerals

Australia's National Science Agency

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 a 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 videos and reading materials.

Week 1 (Starts on 16 October 2025)
Workshop (4 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 2–8
Self-paced innovation program (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 an idea within the mining and critical minerals sector, including any sub-sector such as:

- Discovery
- Hard rock mining
- Processing
- Sensing and sorting
- Characterisation
- Sustainable mining technologies
- Battery technology
- Other

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 the mining and critical minerals sector.

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

Other considerations:

- A strong alignment to the program objectives
- A clear desire to investigate a R&D project

Previous participant feedback
'CSIRO was outstanding in understanding the research field and requirements for development and commercialisation activities. I immediately made connections within CSIRO and other participants to assist with progressing the technology. The specialist advice from topic experts was fantastic!'

– Ebbe Dommisse, Iondrive

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

For further information
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www.csiro.au/I2Gcriticalminerals