BOOSTING BUSINESS INNOVATION
The NSW Government is driving innovation and jobs growth in New South Wales with the Boosting Business Innovation Program, a $12 million, two-year partnership with 12 delivery partners.

Small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs) are the engine room of the NSW economy so we are anticipating these partnerships will create new business ideas, new job opportunities and industry investment across New South Wales particularly in the regions.

There are around 700,000 SMEs in NSW which represent around a third (33.2 per cent) of Australia’s SMEs.

These businesses make a significant contribution to the Australian economy, accounting for approximately 57 per cent of industry value added in 2014-15.

Australia performs well in research – in the world’s top one per cent of cited research papers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

However, fewer than one in two Australian businesses report innovative activity of any kind, whether product, process, or strategy. Very few take new products and services to market.

This new Boost Program will allow SMEs to tap into our world class skills and research expertise to create a better, more collaborative, innovative future for the New South Wales economy.
The $12 million Boosting Business Innovation Program (the Program) aims to accelerate innovation in NSW by supporting greater collaboration between NSW research organisations and their business communities.

The two-year Program is helping to unlock access to technology, equipment, research and expertise to build an innovation ecosystem and stimulate economic growth right across NSW.

THE PROGRAM IS:
» a networked innovation ecosystem across NSW
» additional external funding
» small-medium enterprises (SMEs) who want to scale up and innovate
» the regional startup sector and create innovation clusters across the State
» access to high tech equipment and technical expertise for SMEs and startups through TechVouchers.

There are 12 delivery partners for the Program:
» Australian Catholic University
» Charles Sturt University
» Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)
» Macquarie University
» Southern Cross University
» University of New England
» University of New South Wales
» The University of Newcastle
» The University of Sydney
» University of Technology Sydney
» University of Wollongong
» Western Sydney University

These delivery partners are home to a vast array of highly skilled people and cutting edge technology.
AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY (ACU)

is collaborating with emerging small-medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to share resources, knowledge, research and expertise through ACU Collaborate Plus.

Under the Program, ACU Collaborate Plus is establishing multidisciplinary collaborative spaces in Strathfield and North Sydney, to facilitate sustainable partnerships with organisations.

The purpose of the collaborative spaces is:

» supporting and strengthening local networks of entrepreneurs, SMEs and industry

» enhancing innovation in product and process development

» assisting in developing suitable organisational practices through access to research and disciplinary expertise

» providing access to resources through work integrated learning opportunities for SMEs.

The University is providing project support incentives for collaborative startups including advice on business plans, compliance and regulations, financial management, marketing programs, insurance and legal structures and risk assessments through innovation mentors, academic and business partners. SMEs can also partner with the University to access research and expertise.

NSW TechVouchers supports new research collaborations and relationships between SMEs and Australian Catholic University. Businesses can partner with the University to access research, expertise, facilities and equipment. TechVoucher program will fund eligible projects up to $15,000 in matching cash contribution.


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CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY

is supporting the development of regional small to medium sized enterprises (SMEs), entrepreneurship and delivering a networked innovation ecosystem in the Central West and Southern regions of NSW.

Under this Program, the University is:

» establishing the CSU Multi-Region Hub Program which includes:
  • CenWest Innovate in Bathurst, which will provide a business accelerator program and other training and support to increase the innovation capability of SMEs in Central-West NSW
  • an Agritech Incubator Hub in Wagga Wagga to support the development of startup companies and facilitate innovation between regional SMEs
  • Walan Mayinygu Indigenous Entrepreneurship ‘Pop-up’ Innovation Hub which is visiting locations across NSW to work with Indigenous communities and entrepreneurs to develop technology, business and innovation ideas

» helping SMEs improve their technical and innovation capability

» partnering with SMEs in research

» supporting SME development through a business accelerator program and NSW TechVouchers

» helping to develop digital innovation clusters.

The University is a multi-campus institution with campuses at Albury-Wodonga, Bathurst, Canberra, Dubbo, Orange, Port Macquarie and Wagga Wagga.

NSW TechVouchers supports new research collaborations and relationships between SMEs and Charles Sturt University. Businesses can partner with the University to access research, expertise, facilities and equipment. TechVoucher program will fund eligible projects up to $15,000 in matching cash contribution.


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COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION (CSIRO)

is focused on helping companies develop, prototype and test hardware and devices. CSIRO is helping to grow and sustain collaboration networks with technology focused small-medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and startups.

SMEs have access to some of the brightest minds and best facilities in Australia, while CSIRO is helping to play a pivotal role in supporting the creation of cutting edge technologies and companies in NSW. CSIRO is providing access to targeted facilities and services for the hardware and device startup community.

Under this Program, the CSIRO Lindfield Hub is:

» offering collaborative work spaces at CSIRO’s high-tech lab
» providing access to digital and analogue electronics, prototyping, general laboratory equipment and workshop tools
» providing opportunities for companies to partner with CSIRO scientists and gain access to in-depth technical insights to help accelerate the development of their projects
» creating opportunities for businesses to interact with experts from CSIRO, National Measurement Institute and other tenants, such as startups and SMEs, through events, seminars and telepresence connectivity to other CSIRO sites
» offering a pre-accelerator program focused on refining the alignment of products with an identified market need
» undertaking a regional roadshow and industry events to engage with businesses that are remote from CSIRO facilities.

NSW TechVouchers supports new research collaborations and relationships between SMEs and CSIRO. Businesses can partner with CSIRO to access research, expertise, facilities and equipment. TechVoucher program will fund eligible projects up to $15,000 in matching cash contribution.


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is supporting innovation and business by bringing together small-medium sized enterprises (SMEs), entrepreneurs, startups who want to scale up, government agencies and corporates from all areas of industry.

Under this Program, the University is:

» establishing a co-working space
» providing regional activities and events
» providing entrepreneur training
» providing intrapreneurship training for industry and government staff
» providing access to expertise and technical equipment
» allowing access, support and opportunities from this extensive and diverse network.

The University is offering early stage pre-incubation entrepreneur training, networking events, community engagement, regional programs and support for follow-on incubation of startups.

Located within the Macquarie Park Innovation District, the Innovation Hub offers a unique opportunity to connect with corporate partners, cutting edge researchers, entrepreneurs, Macquarie University staff, alumni and students.

NSW TechVouchers supports new research collaborations and relationships between SMEs and Macquarie University. Businesses can partner with the University to access research, expertise, facilities and equipment. TechVoucher program will fund eligible projects up to $15,000 in matching cash contribution.


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SOUTHERN CROSS UNIVERSITY

is harnessing the benefits of collaboration for innovation in the Northern Rivers region to establish and promote a regional innovation cluster. This cluster is contributing through this to the larger NSW innovation system.

Through the Program, Southern Cross University is establishing the Southern Cross Enterprise Lab in Lismore.

The Enterprise Lab is:

» fostering collaboration among students, researchers and participating small-medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to activate new and existing businesses to tackle key challenges and opportunities and accelerate innovation

» allowing SMEs free access to the Lab, which includes high-speed optic fibre broadband, dedicated co-working facilities, and also broader access to the knowledge resources of the University including; libraries, student interns, researchers and national and international collaborators

» providing participating SMEs the opportunity to work on their business, whether a new, emerging idea or an established small business, in a collaborative partnership with key regional agencies and the University.

NSW TechVouchers supports new research collaborations and relationships between SMEs and Southern Cross University. Businesses can partner with the University to access research, expertise, facilities and equipment. TechVoucher program will fund eligible projects up to $15,000 in matching cash contribution.


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UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND

is enabling small-medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to connect regionally, nationally and internationally using sophisticated communications technology supported by commercial expertise.

The University is providing a data and analytical platform for SMEs and entrepreneurs to access the latest research data generated by the UNE SMART Farm and the Centre for Agribusiness. This data can be used for experimentation to accelerate and commercialise opportunities and new business models with a particular focus on agribusiness and ag-tech.

Under this Program, the University of New England (UNE) is establishing the UNE SMART Region Incubator in Armidale and Tamworth.

The UNE SMART Region Incubator is:

» providing access to research data to create commercial agribusiness and agricultural technology opportunities
» a collaborative working environment with space for startups
» providing access to support and knowledge that can assist entrepreneurs to grow business ideas and commercial opportunities
» connecting entrepreneurs and SMEs with regional, national and international innovation networks
» providing introductions to financiers and specialist advice on intellectual property.

NSW TechVouchers supports new research collaborations and relationships between SMEs and University of New England. Businesses can partner with the University to access research, expertise, facilities and equipment. TechVoucher program will fund eligible projects up to $15,000 in matching cash contribution.


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UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

is assisting regional and metropolitan small-medium sized enterprises (SMEs) to innovate by providing opportunities to integrate closely to its world-class facilities and expertise to develop technological solutions for industry challenges.

Under the Program, the University is:

» establishing a co-working space on the Kensington campus where businesses can interact closely with students, researchers, technologies and industry connections

» providing extensive programs of metropolitan and regional activities co-developed with the Michael Crouch Innovation Centre, UNSW Innovations and the University’s various faculties including the Faculty of Engineering and the School of Business. Some programs include design thinking, collaboration design, rapid prototyping and digital fabrication

» providing access to researchers, labs and equipment, analytical and experimental facilities such as the Mark Wainwright Analytical Centre and additive manufacturing facilities

» helping SMEs to enhance or scale-up their products or services. UNSW’s ‘TechConnect Global’ will allow access to international networks, facilities and expertise. This will make their products and services better, more robust and efficient.

NSW TechVouchers supports new research collaborations and relationships between SMEs and the University of New South Wales. Businesses can partner with the University to access research, expertise, facilities and equipment. TechVoucher program will fund eligible projects up to $15,000 in matching cash contribution.


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THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE

is continuing its long-term strategic commitment to the growth and development of the Hunter region. The University is expanding its ability to foster regional small-medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and startups and create innovation clusters across NSW as part of an Integrated Innovation Networks (I2N).

Under the Program, the University is:

» operating Three76 Innovation Hub, a co-working space located in the Newcastle CBD that supports entrepreneurial activities of UoN students, staff, researchers, graduates and the wider community by providing access to the University’s research and engagement with industry

» establishing an Defence Innovation Hub located at Williamtown Aerospace Centre which builds on the University’s acknowledged strengths in cyberspace, control systems, autonomous vehicles, simulation modelling and propulsion and energy storage; and engagement with industries servicing the defence sector both nationally and locally

» supporting the Upper Hunter Innovation Hub a co-location of office, teaching and lab spaces in Muswellbrook aimed at supporting the diversification goals of the Upper Hunter and its potential to transition into an innovation intensive region. The Hub is helping to foster an innovation framework that adds capacity for existing industries and becomes an enabler for new business and emerging industries

» supporting the Dantia Smart Hub (DaSH) via a suite of entrepreneurial programs at the Charlestown co-working space, such as the I2N Incubator, which facilitates scaling-up opportunities for local businesses to drive emerging economic activity in the region.

NSW TechVouchers supports new research collaborations and relationships between SMEs and the University of Newcastle. Businesses can partner with the University to access research, expertise, facilities and equipment. TechVoucher program will fund eligible projects up to $15,000 in matching cash contribution.


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THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

is a world leader in research and innovation and has a strategic goal to facilitate the growth of the ideas economy and bridge the collaboration gap. The University knows that academic research and industry collaboration will be integral to building the successful innovation economies of the future.

Under the Program, the University is:

» developing a collaborative space on the Sydney campus which will bring business, industry and researchers under the one roof to collaborate on projects, with access to core facilities including prototyping and fabrication facilities

» piloting research and industry partnership programs to explore new models for translating and commercialising research, and to address business research and workforce needs. This will grow a culture and awareness of the importance of industry and research partnerships in delivering community and commercial outcomes

» delivering programs on innovation and entrepreneurship, through different communication channels including Massive Open Online Learning Courses (MOOCs), to build a greater appreciation of both industry’s opportunities, needs and the University’s capability

» connecting the programs to build on the outcomes of the University’s existing incubator initiatives including Genesis, the University of Sydney School of Business’s cross faculty start up incubator program and INCUBATE, an award-winning start up accelerator and entrepreneur program.

NSW TechVouchers supports new research collaborations and relationships between SMEs and the University of Sydney. Businesses can partner with the University to access research, expertise, facilities and equipment. TechVoucher program will fund eligible projects up to $15,000 in matching cash contribution.


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UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY

has established the Deep Green Biotech Hub (DGBH) and is supporting small-medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurs in the development and creation of new opportunities using algal biotechnology.

Under the Program, the Deep Green Biotech Hub located in Sydney is:

» facilitating discussion and the development of commercial opportunities arising from the exploitation of expertise and technologies at the University. Student projects and business ideas will be supported by various University and commercial incubator programs (such as Cicada Innovations) and through a network of industry mentors providing advice and guidance to SMEs and entrepreneurs seeking to commercialise their ideas. With mentors from the biofuel, cosmetic, industrial chemistry, food, nutraceutical, animal health or pharmaceutical industries

» allowing participants to engage with the Hub and the University through a series of workshops using a multidisciplinary engagement approach. This means ideas and opportunities in the algal biotechnology sphere may arise from someone with expertise in business, design, or engineering.

NSW TechVouchers supports new research collaborations and relationships between SMEs and the University of Technology Sydney (through the Research & Innovation Office). Businesses can partner with the University to access research, expertise, facilities and equipment. TechVoucher program will fund eligible projects up to $15,000 in matching cash contribution.


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UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG

is extending the Illawarra innovation ecosystem to small-medium sized enterprises (SMEs), focusing on the regionally significant sectors of advanced manufacturing, knowledge intensive industries in ICT, shared and financial services, engineering technologies and defence.

Under the Program, the University is:

» providing a one-stop service for regional SMEs to access resources at the University including students and researchers across many different disciplines, labs services such as the Australian National Fabrication Facility Materials Node and the innovation centre at iAccelerate

» providing a program of industry events, workshops, development, training sessions with TAFE Illawarra, contract research and consulting services for SMEs in the target industry sectors

» allowing SMEs to engage with the University to develop new technologies, innovative products and services, improve business capabilities and engage in regional industry collaboration

» providing opportunities to develop new collaborations and business opportunities by engaging with regional stakeholders in local industry and all levels of government.

The University is supporting SMEs to understand and participate in existing local, national and international collaboration engagements and work to develop new opportunities for access to global supply chains (the Advantage SME project).

NSW TechVouchers supports new research collaborations and relationships between SMEs and the University of Wollongong. Businesses can partner with the University to access research, expertise, facilities and equipment. TechVoucher program will fund eligible projects up to $15,000 in matching cash contribution.


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is establishing an advanced manufacturing community of practice assisting early stage and established businesses to scale-up, collaborate and innovate through exposure to leading edge technologies in Western Sydney.

Under the Program, the University is:

» offering advanced manufacturing small-medium sized enterprises (SMEs) the opportunity to join a vibrant community of practice directly linked to the University and its partner network

» providing participants access to research and development resources, high-tech equipment and technologies

» integrating MakerSpace facilities at its Werrington and Parramatta Launch Pad sites. This will introduce manufacturers to new digital technologies and provide collaborative work environments to explore new approaches to advanced smart manufacturing

» bringing together SMEs and startups within high-tech innovation spaces that provide a dynamic environment to promote entrepreneurialism and creative thinking.

Companies are being assisted to challenge their current business models and seek new capabilities through:

» leveraging digital technology to reap the benefits of improved quality

» lower costs

» increased efficiency positioning their business for success within today’s globalised and highly competitive markets.

**NSW TechVouchers** supports new research collaborations and relationships between SMEs and Western Sydney University. Businesses can partner with the University to access research, expertise, facilities and equipment. TechVoucher program will fund eligible projects up to $15,000 in matching cash contribution.


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The NSW Department of Industry, Skills and Regional Development (known as the NSW Department of Industry) supports all areas of economic activity where NSW has competitive strengths. The Department has responsibilities for:

» skill formation and development to match industry demand
» partnering with stakeholders in stewardship and sustainable use of the State’s natural resources; and
» supporting economic growth in the regions.

industry.nsw.gov.au/boosting-innovation

Jobs for NSW is a private sector-led, NSW Government backed initiative which aims to create 1 million new jobs across the State by 2036. Working with whole of government, they seek to drive the Premier’s jobs creation agenda – his number one priority.

Jobs for NSW looks to support fast-growing small to medium businesses across a range of industry sectors. Support is provided by a suite of financial products ranging from grants, to loan guarantees and loans, as part of a $190 million fund. 30% of this fund is solely allocated to support jobs growth in regional NSW.

jobsfornsw.com.au

The Small Biz Connect program provides quality small business advice through an extensive network of mobile Small Biz Connect Advisors around NSW.

1300 134 359
smallbusiness.nsw.gov.au

Knowledge Hubs are industry-led, government-supported collaborative partnerships centred around NSW industry sectors.

They bring together businesses, research organisations and industry associations. By supporting cutting-edge research and ideas along with knowledge sharing, Knowledge Hubs help drive strong and resilient NSW industries which help create the jobs of tomorrow.

industry.nsw.gov.au/knowledgehubs