



Innovate to Grow program: Energy

Applications are open for a free 10-week program for small to medium enterprises (SMEs) working on solutions in the energy sector to explore how research and development (R&D) can advance their project or idea.

Build your R&D idea

Small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) play a key role in growing Australia's energy industry. But taking an R&D idea and turning this into reality can sometimes be a daunting prospect.

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

Register today

Applications close: 10 April 2023

Program starts: 4 May 2023

csiro.au/innovatetogrowEnergy

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

Preparing for the program (~2 hours)

Pre-workshop videos, onboarding, materials and questionnaires.

Week 1 (Official start date, 4 May)

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 webinars for participant networking and guest speakers.

A final questionnaire is required at completion.

Who can attend

Participants working in energy.

This can be in any sub-sector including:

- Hydrogen
- Energy storage and batteries
- Energy data systems
- Low emission technology
- Energy resources
- Other

Selection criteria (essential):

- 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.
- Currently working in the energy sector (or have identified a new opportunity relevant to energy).
- An Australian registered and operating business with an ABN and ACN/ICN.

Other considerations:

- Any other information provided to support your application.
- Have a clear need to develop your knowledge and skills in R&D.

"The program was very practical and hands on. Tony was an excellent steward and the mentor provided excellent advice and connected me with potential research partners."

– Fiona Millikan, Green Gravity

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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