

UC School of ITS Capstone Guest Lecture

23 February 2026, 200 Attendees (in-person & online)

CBRIN was invited to deliver a guest lecture to students of the ITS Capstone course on lean innovation. In this course, students work in teams to work for industry 'clients', and CBRIN has regularly kicked off the semester to introduce lean innovation concepts to students as they engage with their projects.



Image: Students in UC ITS Capstone Course

Illuminate Community Challenge: Canberra Girls Grammar School

27 March 2026, 72 Participants, Canberra Girls Grammar School

CBRIN joined the judging panel for Canberra Girls Grammar School's Year 6 Illuminate Community Challenge for the second year running. Students were asked to develop an empathetic, innovative, and creative solution to at least one of the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals, guided through a design thinking process by Illuminate Education Australia.

The student projects tackled real-world problems ranging across sustainability, wellbeing, and community inclusion. CBRIN's involvement supports the early-stage capability building that sits at the heart of a healthy innovation ecosystem, connecting young people with the mindsets and methods of collaborative innovation well before they identify as entrepreneurs.

Theme 1.2 Collaborative Innovation

Objective: Design and deliver collaborative events, challenges and hackathons that activate partnerships, support growth of key sectors and help academia, government, corporates, and community address problems through collaboration & innovation.

CBRIN works with its Foundation Members and other education and research providers, government, corporates, industry, non-government organisations and industry associations to initiate and support customised open and collaborative innovation events and programs that leverage modern innovation methods and strengthen triple helix linkages and collaboration. This includes a structured peer support groups and events, such as meetups, collab-labs, co-design sessions, hackathons, innovation challenges, prototyping support, competitions and activations helping people, organisations and entire sectors address key challenges through collaborative innovation, engaging our innovation sector capabilities, generating a pipeline for other programs and building connections and momentum within ACT key sectors. The activity will include development of an innovation ecosystem map to identify elements and visualise support networks.

Horizontally, under this objective, CBRIN also supports, initiates, hosts and co-delivers events and engagements that contribute to collaborations and solutions that target any of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Outcomes: More collaborative activities in sectors that matter to Canberra's economic, social and environmental wellbeing.

Overview - Collaborative engagements

In Q3 2025-26 CBRIN delivered and collaborated on delivery of a range of collaborative innovation activities.

Collaborative engagements	Date	Attendance
Support of Australian Defence Tech Hackathon	6 February	12
Australia-India University Collaboration Roundtable	25 February	25
Accelerating Canberra's Energy Transition Workshop 1: Electrification of Transport, Buildings & Other Sectors	19 March	25
Petr Adamek Guest Lecture ANU School of Cybernetics	25 March	18
Total	4	80

Sectors engaged: 10 (Students & Education; Universities & Research Institutions; Defence & National Security; International & Cross-border; State/Territory Government; *Federal Government*; *Startups & Early-stage Ventures*; Community & Grassroots; Energy Transition; Sustainability & Climate Tech), additional sectors to previous quarters: **2**

Australian Defence Tech Hackathon (Pitch & Value Proposition Workshop)

6 February 2026, 12 participants, UNSW Canberra City Campus

CBRIN provided in-kind sponsorship in the form of facilitation support for the Australian Defence Tech Hackathon, delivered by UNSW Canberra as part of an international series

with counterparts in London, Lviv, and Kyiv. Alongside UNSW Launch, CBRIN joined European Defence Tech Hub, Panop, and Beaten Zone Venture Partners to stage the event at UNSW Canberra City Campus.

Across three days, participants worked on dual-use and defence technology challenges aimed at bridging the gap between technologists, public sector, investors, and operators. CBRIN joined more than fifty mentors from academia, defence, and industry delivering workshops and advice to teams.

CBRIN's Dr Craig Davis and Jack Cassidy delivered a Pitch and Value Proposition workshop (12 participants), walking teams through how to articulate the problem, define the customer and value delivered, and communicate why their solution matters to a defence and investor audience. Participants worked with the value proposition canvas and practised sharpening technical ideas into audience-ready pitches.

The hackathon contributed to outcomes for Theme 1.2 by activating a new partnership with UNSW Canberra, engaging a student cohort and the defence sector, and extending CBRIN's reach into an international community of defence tech practitioners.



Photo: Australian Defense Tech Hackathon at UNSW Canberra

Photo credit: Australian Defence Magazine Article

Australia India University Collaboration Roundtable and Startup Showcase

25 February 2026, 25 participants, CBRIN River Oak Room, Level 4

CBRIN was approached by ACT Government Office of International Engagement, Austrade and Study Canberra to assist in hosting a delegation from Universities and technical institutes from different regions across India following up on a visit from Australia (ACT Chief Minister and delegation) earlier in February to discuss specific ways to engage and collaborate in higher education, innovation and entrepreneurship. The Indian university delegation visit represented 7 universities. CBRIN invited its Foundation Members and Education Partners and Board to engage in a discussion where lessons learned and ideas

on longer term collaboration in university led entrepreneurship were shared. In addition, CBRIN invited a range of startups with products and solutions applicable in the Indian context to engage with the delegation and develop linkages through a tradeshow format that was available during networking before and after the event. CBRIN CEO also participated in Office of International Engagement hosted lunch with the delegates prior to their visit to CBRIN.

All Foundation member and education partners of CBRIN were involved in the event demonstrating the strength of the network to our visitors from India. This event was an international engagement and directly contributed to outcomes under theme 1.2 Collaborative Innovation.



Images: Australia-India University Collaboration on Entrepreneurship Roundtable and Startup Showcase, 25 February 2026, CBRIN Level 4

Electrification of Transport, Buildings, Workshop

19 March 2026, 25 participants, CBRIN Level 4, 1 Moore Street, Canberra

On 19 March 2026, CBRIN delivered Workshop 1 of the Accelerating Canberra's Energy Transition (ACET) program in partnership with NEVCE, ANU, UC, UNSW Canberra, and CIT, with support from the ACT Government (City and Environment Directorate) under the Energy Innovation Fund. 25 participants attended from government, academia, industry, business and community organisations.

Speakers Ros Malouf (ACT Government), Toby Roxburgh (NEVCE), and Petr Adámek (CBRIN) opened with perspectives on policy, industry realities, and the role of innovation ecosystems in energy transition. Participants then worked through three facilitated sessions focusing on electrification, identifying gaps, and making commitments for the next six months.

A notable outcome was that all five table groups, without prompting, defined goals anchored in *social purpose and liveability* rather than emissions targets alone. The gaps identified were largely relational, pointing to coordination, trust, and data access as the real barriers. Participants set up their own WhatsApp group after the session to keep working together.

The workshop directly advanced the collaborative innovation theme by activating a cross-sector partnership on a key sector priority and building momentum within the ACT's energy innovation ecosystem. Findings will shape Workshop 2 and the rest of the ACET program.



Image: ACET Workshop 1: Electrification of Transport, Buildings, & Other Sectors

Testimonials:

"Totally worthwhile getting involved in these events which connects like minded people and drives innovation in Canberra". - Lisa Jensen, StrataConnex

"Thank you very much for the workshop - it was an excellent and highly engaging session. I found it particularly valuable for gaining a clearer understanding of the future directions of electrification and the practical pathways to get there. It was great to see such strong participation from across industry, research, and startups, and the CBRIN team did a fantastic

job in delivering a thought-provoking and well-structured workshop.”- Haroldo Hattori, UNSW Canberra (email feedback)

“Great attendees and different voices in the room. Excellent to see that transparency and equity seems to be of equal importance to all.” - Aiofe, Care Financial Services

“Jack is an excellent facilitator - thanks to the CBRIN team for putting this event on.” - Nathan Steggel, Arathem

Building Innovation Ecosystems Lecture

25 March, 18 participants, ANU School of Cybernetics

CBRIN CEO Petr Adámek delivered a guest lecture to the ANU School of Cybernetics' Cyber Physical Systems course, sharing his trajectory from technical cybernetics into the practice of building innovation ecosystems and the frameworks CBRIN draws on in its work.

Petr reflected on his path from learning to code as a child and technical cybernetics in Czechoslovakia, through an MBA at the Rochester Institute of Technology, international economic development work across more than ten countries, and roles in regional innovation systems research plus leadership of programs in the SODA business incubator in New Zealand, before joining CBRIN. The thread was a steady shift from top-down control engineering mindset toward human-centred, ecosystem-based bottom-up problem solving through entrepreneurial innovation.

The core of the lecture focused on a rainforest mindset (serendipity, diversity, decentralised ownership, growth and support experienced as thousands of micro interventions). Petr drew on literature including *The Rainforest*, *Tribal Leadership*, Porter's *Competitive Advantage of Nations*, and *The Startup Community Way*, and argued that trust, shared leadership, and an abundance mindset are what make ecosystems thrive. Discussion covered managing unintended consequences, well-being in impact analysis, and how AI is reshaping early-stage ventures.

The lecture strengthened CBRIN's contribution to ANU's academic activities and helped share the network's thinking, events, programs, and opportunities in the innovation ecosystem with emerging practitioners and researchers.

Other Collaborative Engagements

In addition to the major collaborative innovation events directly contributed to by CBRIN this quarter as described above, the CBRIN team engages in or supports other activities that utilise or benefit from collaborative innovation methods and contribute to Direction 1 helping build capability in segments of the community that do not identify as entrepreneurs with the aim to drive more innovation, collaboration and job creating entrepreneurship.

Other Collaborative Engagements	Date	Attendance
ANU Cybernetics Policy Workshop Human Government	19 February	64
Climate Action Week Sydney 2026	10 March - 12 March	n/a
Prototyping Voucher Steering Committee Meetings	19 February, 25 March	9
CBRIN Advisory Committee Meeting #31	19 March	7

Veracity Innovation x ICC Winter Ideation Session	31 March	9
Total*	5 events	89

Sectors engaged*: 11 (Universities & Research Institutions; Federal Government; Policy & Regulatory; Community & Grassroots; Digital & ICT; International & Cross-border; Advanced Manufacturing; Sustainability & Climate Tech; Energy Transition; Innovation Intermediaries; *SMEs & Scale-ups*), unique sectors, 1 additional to those engaged previously: **1**

*Event and participation numbers not counted under 1.2 main KPI, only unique sectors engaged

Human Government with Professor Sir Geoff Mulgan

19 February 2026, 64 participants, ANU School of Cybernetics

CBRIN's Jack Cassidy contributed to an interactive workshop with Professor Sir Geoff Mulgan CBE, inaugural International Fellow of the Australian Resilient Democracy Network (ARDN). The session was organised by the Department of Home Affairs Office for Social Cohesion, the Australia and New Zealand School of Government, and ARDN, and hosted at the ANU School of Cybernetics. Participants came from across the Australian Public Service and civil society to examine how public institutions can be redesigned to strengthen trust, cohesion, and democratic resilience in an age of data, platforms, and AI.

Discussion covered: governance and accountability, place and community, communication and engagement, and the role of AI and algorithms in public service delivery. Participants shared examples of institutional innovation, including the Office for the Arts' reshaping of the cultural sector through Creative Australia, aged care governance work with a Council of Elders, and citizen jury models from Reykjavik and Leuven. A recurring thread was the question of whether government trusts people, not just whether people trust government.

CBRIN's participation extended the network's engagement with federal policy innovation and brought the perspective of a neutral ecosystem convenor into a conversation about democratic resilience. The session reinforced the value of the cross-sector, place-based approaches central to CBRIN's work.

Climate Action Week Sydney 2026

10-12 March 2026, Multiple Sessions, Sydney

Jack Cassidy represented the Canberra energy innovation ecosystem and CBRIN at Climate Action Week Sydney 2026 (CAWSYD26), attending sessions across systems change, electrification of heavy industry and transport, sustainable event delivery, climate communication through games, and the political landscape shaping Australia's climate response. The week brought together practitioners from government, industry, research, philanthropy, community organisations, and the general public working on the energy transition and broader climate action.

A central takeaway, drawn particularly from the Systems Change in Practice panel, was that there is no single way to achieve systems change. Practitioners approach it differently, ranging from optimistic to cynical, and while some advocate incremental tinkering, others argue that sweeping structural shifts are required. What every approach shared was a dependence on collaboration and joined-up action across sectors. These insights directly inform CBRIN's role as a neutral convenor and contribute to the design of the ACET

program, where systems-level coordination across the ACT's energy transition and innovation is the core objective. CBRIN's attendance helped build new connections with interstate systems-change practitioners, clean tech founders, and climate program leads, several of whom will be invited to contribute to upcoming ACET activities.

Prototyping Voucher Steering Committee Meetings

19 February 2026, 25 March 2026, 9 Participants Total, CBRIN: Level 5 & Online

The Prototyping Voucher Pilot (PVP) Steering Committee met twice during Q3 to review new applications and progress across the program. Several applicants have been shortlisted and locked in for pitch sessions, and the committee has signalled an interest in supporting unique or edge-case vouchers as part of the pilot's learning mandate.

Current voucher holders have made progress on their prototypes, including completing mid-point surveys. CBRIN works with partner institutions (ANU, UC, CIT, and UNSW Canberra) and voucher holders to publish case studies capturing how the program has developed their projects and strengthened their connections with Canberra's innovation ecosystem. CBRIN has also submitted a proposal to extend the program beyond the initial pilot period until June 2027.

CBRIN Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting #31

19 March 2026, 7 participants, CBRIN Level 4 and online

CBRIN hosted its 31st Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting to gather input on the 2025/26 Workplan under the current ACT Government funding agreement.

Petr opened with updates on the completed Level 5 refurbishment, the new CBRIN website, and recent external engagements including the New Zealand visit and CBRIN's well-attended SouthStart session. Discussion then moved to the work plan across CBRIN's three strategic directions: innovation capacity, entrepreneurial capacity, and ecosystem placemaking.

Committee input raised several threads: stronger website and CRM integration to support personalised ecosystem navigation, an explicit sustainability plan CBRIN could model and translate into entrepreneur support, expanded storytelling and blog content, and formal guidance on AI use in professional work. The committee also discussed risk mitigation for hybrid attendance and travel disruption, agreeing that in-person exchange should be prioritised where possible.

The meeting set up several concrete actions, including a planned collaborative lab on AI governance.

Veracity Innovation x ICC Winter Ideation Session

31 March 2026, 9 participants, Innovation Central Canberra, UC Bruce Campus

CBRIN's Jack Cassidy participated in an ideation session run by Innovation Central Canberra in partnership with Veracity Innovation, bringing together ICC's industry partners and contacts to unpack current challenges and explore where digital innovation can help.

Participants experienced hands-on exercises, including a 'little ducky' activity where they were encouraged to build individual duck designs from the same Lego pieces before pairing up to negotiate and build a shared version. The exercise demonstrated how diversity of opinion, compromise, and buy-in shape innovation outcomes, and how two-person work often takes longer but travels further than working solo.

Jack used the session to work through a CBRIN operational challenge around repetition in information entry across multiple systems, and how CBRIN's Podio data management and CRM system could be better leveraged to address it. The session supported deepening of collaboration between CBRIN and University of Canberra's ICC, strengthening the working relationship between two ecosystem-building organisations.

Collaborative Innovation Pipeline

The following activities represent CBRIN's ongoing efforts to develop future collaborative innovation opportunities and secure funding for expanded programming that will strengthen the ACT's innovation ecosystem.

Collaborative Innovation Pipeline	Date	Attendance
ACET Planning: Hackathon and Remaining Workshops	Multiple dates	n/a
NFP Innovation Forum Ongoing Work	Multiple dates	12
PVP Coordination Meetings and Update	6 meetings, multiple dates	6 meetings (1:1)
CALD Program Himayat x CBRIN Meetings	30 and 31 March	11
Total	10	29

Sectors engaged*: 8 (Universities & Research Institutions; Advanced Manufacturing; Startups & Early-stage Ventures; Innovation Intermediaries; Not-for-Profits & Social Enterprise; Researchers & Academics; Culturally & Linguistically Diverse; Community & Grassroots)

*Not counted in 1.2 numbers as these are development activities that will be measured once completed

Accelerating Canberra's Energy Transition Planning

Various dates, Level 5, 1 Moore Street CBRIN

Building on Workshop 1, CBRIN continues planning to deliver the remaining three workshops and the hackathon over the coming quarters. The ACET Hackathon is set for 16 April in partnership with NEVCE, engaging students and young entrepreneurs on the key policy areas identified through the workshop series. CBRIN met with UC to discuss venue logistics for the Hackathon which will be hosted at the Ann Harding Conference Centre, UC. Workshop 2 will follow in early May at CBRIN aiming to surface practical approaches to grid stability, demand response, battery storage, and smart grid transition across research and industry. The comprehensive report for workshop 1 has been shared with the Energy Innovation Fund team for review. Feedback from Workshop 1 will directly shape the design of both the Hackathon and Workshop 2.

Prototyping Voucher Pilot Coordination Meetings and Update

Various dates, January, February, March 2026, 6 Meetings (1:1), Online and in-person

CBRIN's PVP Project Coordinator continued to meet with prospective applicants throughout the quarter across six one-on-one sessions. These meetings provided guidance on application requirements, connected innovators with technical experts at partner Makerspaces, and monitored progress on active projects. The format gives innovators a clear, accessible entry point into the program and strengthens the broader culture of collaboration and knowledge-sharing that underpins the ecosystem. Building on this work, the Engineer & Designer Mentor Roulette is set for 21 May at CBRIN Level 5, with tickets now on sale. The event will feature quick-fire expert sessions: five tables staffed by engineers, industrial designers, and technical experts from ANU, UC, UNSW Canberra, and CIT, plus industrial design expert Ashley Marsh-Croft. Participants will rotate between tables, getting expert feedback and guidance on their projects. Eight of the sixteen vouchers have been awarded to date, and further applications are expected to be stimulated through the Roulette as more local innovators engage with the program.

NFP Innovation Forum - Ongoing Work

Various dates, 12 participants, In-person and Online

The Steering Committee for the December 2025 NFP Innovation Forum on ending loneliness in Canberra met to discuss how to report on and leverage the momentum from the forum. CBRIN's Petr Adamek, Genevieve Jacobs from Hands Across Canberra (HAC), and Meegan Fitzharris from UC met with the ACT Health Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith to discuss a potential sponsored PhD candidacy to work on issues identified at the forum, alongside ongoing grant opportunities. An executive summary building on CBRIN's report of the forum has been published on the HAC website, with detailed information about the forum available to the public. The next NFP Innovation Forum is scheduled for late 2026.

CALD Program | Himayat x CBRIN Collaboration Meeting

30 and 31 March 2026, 11 Participants, Level 4, CBRIN

CBRIN met several times with Himayat (not for profit focused on opportunities for CALD segment of the society) and partners to scope a marquee event targeting entrepreneurs from refugee, migrant, and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds. The shared motivation is brokering trust across community providers and promoting opportunities to this segment of the population that may feel excluded from mainstream innovation and entrepreneurship activities. The event will bring together a panel of experts and people with lived experience to share their innovation journeys, modelled on the Female Founders format with networking afterwards. It is designed to connect participants with CBRIN resources and complementary supports through Himayat, Mill House, Navitas, and other partners.

DIRECTION 2 ENTREPRENEURIAL CAPACITY BUILDING

Goal: Grow the entrepreneurial capacity of our innovation ecosystem by developing, delivering, and linking programs and resources that support growth of ambitious innovation and technology companies.

Our activities under this direction focus on active development and support of a strong pipeline of entrepreneurs and their innovation projects. They will also include development, delivery and evaluation of growth programs to companies from pre-startups, startups, scaleups to SMEs. More broadly CBRIN connects companies to funding, expertise, tools, resources and opportunities that enhance their capabilities and progress.

Theme 2.1 Entrepreneur Pipeline

Objective: Build a strong pipeline of entrepreneurs and innovators and triage them into programs and services that support their progress, link them to funding, entrepreneur education and mentoring.

Under this objective CBRIN collaborates on and delivers events and engagements that inspire entrepreneurs (including those in Foundation Member institutions). Specifically, we:

- deliver workshop programs that strengthen entrepreneurial skills and grow participants' capacity to build or contribute to innovation and high growth companies.
- conduct introductory meetings with entrepreneurs and triage them into other programs, connect them to mentors and sources of funding and support.
- attract a strong and diverse pool of applicants for INNOVATION CONNECT grants program in partnership with the ACT Government to provide matched funding to set innovation companies on their growth journeys.
- seek partnerships that can help activate and support a pipeline of innovations addressing any of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Outcomes: Strong and diverse dealflow of quality participants apply to growth stage initiatives in the ACT.

Events, Workshops and Programs Overview

CBRIN delivers events, webinars, panel discussions, and other engagements that inspire and inform entrepreneurs. The workshop program strengthens entrepreneurs' skills in key areas and strengthens their capacity to build high growth companies.

The table below summarises the activities completed under this theme. Note that Net Promoter Score is used to measure participant satisfaction and is a harsh measure with scores ranging from -100% to +100%. A full explanation of how this is calculated is provided at the end of this report.

Workshop / Event	Date	Attendance	NPS
Female Founders Tradeshow	Feb 10	98	100%
SME Breakfast	26 Feb	39	-
Lunch & Learn: Vocal Presence with Maïke Brill	5 March	11	-
Female Founders Panel - Belinda Newham	10 March	46	100%
ICON Group Intro Meeting	16 March	18	-
Fireside Chat with Peter Lilley	24 March	47	100%
Idea to Impact Workshop 1	25 March	21	89%
Total	7 events	280	97.25%

Note: NPS does not indicate a percentage of people who were satisfied with the event. In fact, all of them could be satisfied. It indicates so called promotability (how likely are the attendees going to promote the event to others). The event testimonials provide a qualitative evaluation of the event from participants' perspectives. NPS can also fluctuate widely if there are low responses. For more information, refer to the last page of this report for more information on how NPS is calculated.

SME Breakfast

26 February 2026, 39 Attendees

CBRIN held the quarterly SME Breakfast with 39 leaders and founders in the Canberra's small business community. The theme for this round was 'What's Your Superpower?'. This got participants thinking about what they're good at, and what they bring individually to their business, and what their business brings to the market. All of the tables were leaning heavily into the discussion and stayed beyond the formal end time of the event.



Image: Photo of SME Breakfast, 26 February 2026

Testimonials:

"The breakfast is an opportunity to experience a stimulating environment and meet exciting companies and knowledgeable people in a friendly and supportive setting." - Dominic Dolan, Indiginaus Print Pty Ltd

"Great opportunities to connect with like minded business people in a relaxed atmosphere."
- David French, Inspire Leadership Coaching

Lunch & Learn: Vocal Presence with Maike Brill

5 March 2026, 11 Attendees

CBRIN hosted Maike Brill, a Canberra-based leadership expert, executive coach and vocal presence specialist to run a lunch & learn on vocal presence. The session saw participants discuss what vocal presence actually means and use practical tools to understand how to communicate with more clarity, confidence and impact.



Image: Lunch and Learn: Vocal Presence with Maike Brill

Fireside Chat with Peter Lilley

24 March 2026, 47 Attendees NPS 100%

CBRIN hosted a fireside chat with Peter Lilley, co-founder and former CEO of Instacluster, giving attendees a rare, unfiltered look at one of Canberra's most notable startup success stories. Peter spoke candidly about his full entrepreneurial journey, from the early team and key people who shaped the company, through to his exit, sharing the lessons, decisions, and experiences that defined Instacluster's growth. The session drew strong engagement from the crowd, with a lively question and answer exchange rounding out an honest and practical conversation about what it really takes to build and scale a high-growth company.



Image: Fireside Chat with Peter Lilley 24 March 2026

Idea to Impact Workshop Series

Idea to Impact - Finding Market Need

25 March 2026, 21 participants, NPS 89%

The first workshop in the 2026 Idea to Impact series, *Finding Market Need*, brought together early-stage founders for a hands-on half-day session exploring the fundamentals of customer-led innovation. Participants were introduced to lean innovation principles and worked through two core tools, the Value Finder canvas and the Pitch Method, applying both directly to their own ideas. Through peer interviews and pitch practice, participants developed skills in identifying customer-problem pairs and testing value propositions before building, leaving with actionable next steps for validating their ideas with potential customers.



Image: Idea to Impact - Finding Market Need

Testimonials:

"Craig's communication style and attention to completing his idea verbally was excellent. I've been trying to get my ideas forward of me on the table for 2 years. Got some techniques today and how to apply them is pretty easy as I have gotten a lot done recently that I was able to bring into this session." - Barnaby Sneddon

"A very valuable afternoon of thinking about my business that gave me the tools to move forward with confidence and logic in my business setup. Would love to do the rest as an intensive day session to keep the momentum going!" - Jen McAlister

"Valuable, interesting and engaging! It was a big chunk of time, but very much worth it, thank you!" - Mark Wallis

"Thank you for the opportunity to be part of the workshop today, which I think was ran very well by yourself, Irene and Craig. I really enjoyed the discussions and the way they challenged my thinking and they have given me a lot to reflect on in how I communicate and position my business. I made some great connections as well and will be nurturing those moving forward." - Kimberly Creech

This quarter there was no significant activity with the ON Prime program. CBRIN was getting ready to host CSIRO ON in early April.

Female Founders

There have been 2,113 registrations for 37 Female Founders events since 24 March 2020.



Image: Photo of the Female Founders Tradeshow

Female Founders Tradeshow - Supporting Women-Led Businesses

10 February 2026, 98 attendees

To kick off the Female Founders program for the year, CBRIN hosted a tradeshow featuring 24 women-led businesses and 98 attendees.

Business	Sector
Castlepoint Systems	Records Management
Marrawuy Journeys	Arts & Wellbeing
WaitOnce	Health
Avian	Digital Services
Meos	Mobile Operating System
Yellow Hat Consulting	Consultancy & Change Management
TaperMate	Health
Pawl.AI	Pet Care
Clubland - For Future's Sake	Digital Sports Club House

Cafe Stepping Stone	Food
ANU Women* in STEM Program	Education
Envizia	Live illustrations
Allara Creative	Handcrafted Gifts
Evalue8 Sustainability	Carbon Accounting Software
Her Smile	Self-Image Assistance
Yarn	Health
Economics for Kids	Education
StoryCloud	Education
Nature Helm	Biodiversity Insights Platform
Fair Play LSP (Lego Serious Play)	Workshop Facilitation Practice
Zeitgeist CT	Coaching
Himayat Support Services	CALD Support Services
Burbirra	Health
YWCA	Community Group

Female Founders panel with Belinda Newham

10 March 2026, 46 attendees

The March edition of Female Founders featured Belinda Newham, the founder of Decision Revolution, interviewed by CBRIN's Irene Zhen. Belinda spoke candidly around her business journey of starting and growing Decision Revolution before merging with Parbery Consulting, and then ultimately de-merging again.



Image: Photo of the Female Founders panel with Belinda Newham & Irene Zhen

Intro Meetings

57 held this quarter, 100% NPS

The CBRIN Growth team regularly engages with new Canberra-based innovators and entrepreneurs in one-on-one meetings that can be booked via the CBRIN website. At these intro meetings we listen, ask questions, provide feedback and triage after we assess the relevance of the projects and level of progress into various programs; including Innovation Connect (ICON), SME Program, GRIFFIN Accelerator, The Mill House and Idea to Impact.

Intro Meetings aim to add value to entrepreneurs by asking thought-provoking questions as well as linking them to relevant support networks, or activities.

Testimonials:

"Really felt encouraged and buoyed by the initial meeting. Very focussed and helpful. Shashank was informative professional and helpful. Thanks very much!" – Su Hanfling & Alison Wyse, Active Minds: CST for Dementia

Innovation Connect Grants

Innovation Connect (ICON) is a grant program that CBRIN delivers in partnership with the ACT Government since September 2018. ICON provides between \$10,000 and \$30,000 matched funded grants to support innovative projects towards developing a proof of concept or prototype and assist with the early stages of commercialisation.

Current ICON Grant Funding Round

- ICON opened for expressions of interest on 21 January 2026 and plans to close application on 10 April 2026.
- A Last-Minute Group Intro Meeting was held on 16 March 2026 for those that were unable to book an intro meeting in time to apply before the cutoff date. There were 18 participants.
- 67 applicants have been invited so far to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI). More are expected as the closing date approaches.
- The Independent Panel for this round:
 - Catherine Carter - Chief Executive Officer, DJAS Architecture | Founder + Managing Director, Salon Canberra | Adjunct Professor, University of Canberra
 - Adash Jeniszewski - Chief Executive Officer, Providence Consulting
 - Davina Mansfield - Head of Innovation & Industry Partnership @ UNSW Canberra
 - Tom Mercer - Coach & Mentor, Startmate
- Pitch Day for the current round will be held on Level 4 / 1 Moore Street in the Canberra Innovation Network ScaleUp Hub on Thursday 21 May 2026.

Grant acquittals this quarter

5 projects acquitted their ICON grants this quarter, demonstrating how they met the milestones in their agreements. Key achievements included progress with early sales and team growth.

Company	ICON Round	Highlights shared by recipients
Dapple	May 2025	Capital raised: raised \$50,000 through Griffin Accelerator, providing additional runway to support ongoing development. Customer traction: established collaboration partnerships with approximately six major ANU student societies and secured sponsorships from several local Canberra businesses to support our launch activities. Hiring: hired casual staff from our user base (Canberra-based university students) to assist with launch activities, user validation coordination, and event support for our beta and launch activities. Product development: exceeded original milestone by completing two prototypes and are now built the first fully working version of our working MVP. Launch: successfully launched our MVP at the ANU O-Week to reach over 500 new users.

Decision Revolution Decision Revolution is an online diagnostic, training, and coaching platform for personal and professional decision-making.	May 2023	It allowed us to engage with a local developer, Drenlo, to produce the MVP. We really valued this relationship and would not have had the chance to work together without the ICON grant. We tested the underlying diagnostics and content with several teams, which has validated our thoughts that a team-based (DecisiveTeams) may be a viable product.
Freeline Homes	October 2023	Market research indicates strong demand for the product in Australia and internationally. Primary use case for in home Palliative Care (end of life care), in home aged care, and hospital discharge.
Momentum Health Technologies	May 2024	For us the greatest highlight has been to go through a more thorough design process. We have been less specific in the past about producing a design process with the purpose of a specific product. This has been a fantastic learning experience and will enable us to better design solutions in the future. The work in 3D print testing has also exposed us to a larger number of potential suppliers and highlighted some pitfalls of various providers to look out for.
Statekraft	May 2025	Since the start of the ICON grant, Statekraft has employed two full time and one part-time staff. We have completed a family and friends capital raise of \$650,000 at a post-money valuation of \$2.65 million and about to open another round. As noted, we have also launched Statekraft in market with a great response so far having released Nest, our first B2C subscription tier. Our aggressive roadmap is focusing the team on maturing Nest, building the power user B2C tier (Perch) and readying for B2B/G releases. We are also in discussions with various government agencies on data relationships to secure our access to the core of our offering.

ICON Testimonials:

"The ICON Grant enables us to fund the construction and testing of small-scale prototypes. The data generated through this testing is critical for attracting potential investors and for us, as founders, to identify the most promising market for our technology."- Felipe Torres, Soret Tech

"Provided working capital to prove our idea was commercially viable before we were able to raise private equity." – Alan Tse, Altina Drinks

"The ICON grant allowed me to get the legal and technical expertise I needed to be able to develop and launch my mobile app. Without it, it would have taken years to develop and competitors would have gotten to market first." – Alicia Martin, TaperMate

Theme 2.2 Growth Programs

Objective: Coordinate and deliver programs and services that contribute to growth of innovative ventures, including deep-tech, social enterprises, startups, scaleups and SMEs.

Under this theme / objective CBRIN supports the MILL HOUSE Ventures to deliver programs that grow innovative social enterprises (such as via their GRIST accelerator program). We also work with local mentors and investors to support a high-growth startup accelerator program for pre-investment startups (GRIFFIN Accelerator). In addition, CBRIN delivers a set of its own Growth Programs for scale ups, research-intensive spinouts and ambitious innovative SMEs and builds a network of mentors and investors to connect them to founders and innovative projects including through an annual investor showcase.

Outcomes: Significant achievements of local innovation companies, Investments in local innovation companies

Overview

CBRIN acceleration services are delivered to assist growth stage startups (>\$100k investment or revenue) and accelerator startups selected by mentors including research spinouts.

The SME program engages with established Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) with innovation potential.

The incubation and scale up programs aim to deliver targeted, impactful engagement with projects that are innovation driven and report one or more of: significant capital raised, customer revenue or team expansion. Companies with substantial intellectual property assets are included where there are good prospects for commercialisation.

The above growth programs are delivered in a range of formats for specific groups:

- The Mill House Ventures - programs targeting social impact ventures through our supported partner the Mill House Ventures
- Founder Sessions - value add one-on-one engagement with entrepreneurs
- Mentor network activation
- Investor connections
- Growth labs - targeted, intensive workshops with companies
- SME Accelerator
- Scale Up Leaders Group - small-group facilitated peer-to-peer discussions for leaders of companies at the scale up stage
- Scaleup Masterclass - advanced workshop content for scaleup companies
- GRIFFIN Accelerator - mentor-led 3-month intensive program for startups selected by mentors
- External program referrals

This quarter 62 ventures were assisted by CBRIN growth programs. This includes companies shortlisted for or receiving ICON Grants, GRIFFIN Accelerator, SME Accelerator, Scaleup Program, investor connections and important founder conversations, feedback sessions, growth discussions and strategic discussions.

Ventures assisted in these programs are well spread across startup, early growth, scale up and small business as shown in the table below. Startup is slightly higher this quarter due to ICON grant shortlisted applicants.

Twelve (19%) of the ventures currently engaged are in the “deep tech” category, with significant intellectual property from research. 42 (68%), out of the 62 assisted this quarter are ventures beyond startup stage.

Distribution of Active Companies (by Category)	#	%
Startups	20	32%
Early Growth: 100k to 1m raised, or 3+ FTE and innovation driven	22	35%
Small business 3 - 20 FTE and innovation potential	10	16%
Scaleup: Innovation-driven and >1m raised, or 20+ FTE employees	10	16%
Total ventures assisted this quarter	62	

The Mill House Ventures Limited

The Mill House Ventures’ (TMHV) purpose is to connect and enable people and organisations across Canberra and the region to help create, amplify and sustain business solutions that address social issues, building a fairer, more inclusive economy and strengthening wellbeing for people and planet. CBRIN supports the Millhouse ventures financially and in-kind and partners with the Mill House on social innovation and entrepreneurship opportunities.

TMHV core roles are:

- Community Hub and Ecosystem Connector which includes connection events, collaborative working, collaboration across sectors and relationship and support brokering.
- Learning Partner for Social Enterprises to provide flexible, practical learning programs, hosted external learning opportunities, peer learning, one-to-one and group support.

Activities during Period

Strategic Review

After more than ten years operating in Canberra, the Mill House Ventures conducted its Strategic Review between October 2025 and January 2026 using the strategic SOAR framework (Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, Results) to explore what The Mill House could build on and aspire to. It included alumni surveys, stakeholder interviews, and a facilitated strategy workshop. The synthesis of these inputs underpins the strategic focus, roles, and implications outlined in the report.

Leadership. As part of the Strategic Review, the new leadership team has been appointed. Nicole Deen and Rebecca Woods provide complementary executive-level skills and experience, aligned to the required activities identified through the strategic review.

Nicole will be focused on how we best support social entrepreneurs through our learning program and connection activities in the ecosystem and wider community, and Rebecca leads on partnerships, engagement and operations.

ACT Social Enterprise Grant. The 2026 round of the ACT Social Enterprise Grant is underway with successful grant recipients notified on 30 March 2026. The outcome at this stage of the process:

- Four (4) Social Enterprises were awarded Grant funding of \$30,000 each
- A total of \$120,000 has been allocated
- A remainder of \$130,000 is available in the 2026 program
- The Co-Chair and ACT Government Representative will consider the option of making the remaining funds available in a second round.

New aspects of the process were trialled for the 2026 round. Feedback will continue to be collected and used as learnings to apply to enhance any future rounds. The aspects trialled included:

- Increased communication with ACT Government about each phase and the activities completed
- Updated templates to communicate eligibility screening outcomes to the panel
- Updated outcome letters for the shortlisting and Q&A phase to provide transparent, clear and consistent communication to successful, and unsuccessful, applicants
- A new option for ASEG Debrief Sessions for unsuccessful applicants, conducted by MS Teams by the Mill House Grant Administrator
- Hosting the Q&A session at the Social Enterprise Hub at the University of Canberra
- Panel support packs for both the Shortlisting and Q&A phase



Image: Co-Chairs, and the Panel at the Social Enterprise Hub after a very full day of Q&A sessions. The boards were displayed around the hub with the message "You are in great company...here are the social enterprises who have grown with the help of the ACT Government, Social Enterprise Grant!"

Founder, Mentor and Outreach Conversations

One of the most important ways the growth programs add value to entrepreneurial ventures is through team members meeting directly with entrepreneurs and mentors.

Engagement	Numbers
Founder Conversations	112
Intro Meetings	57
Mentor / Expert / Investor Engagement (# of mentor conversations)	32
Feedback meetings	3
Coworker Engagement (subset of Founder Conversations)	18
Deep tech company engagement (subset of founder conversations)	17
SME meetings (subset of founder conversations)	15
Entrepreneur in Residence Sessions	20
Total Meetings	209*

* Note total meetings is less than sum of the listed meetings as some meetings serve a dual purpose e.g. feedback + founder conversation or SME meeting + founder conversation.

Intro Meetings are early contact with entrepreneurs - see section 2.1

Founder Conversations with entrepreneurs focus on discussing business challenges or opportunities and coaching participants.

Mentor / Expert / Investor Engagement conversations enable the team to better understand the skills and interests of mentors, experts, and investors.

Feedback meetings refer to meetings specifically booked and held with participants who were unsuccessful in program applications and were interested to understand the feedback from selection panel or CBRIN.

Coworker Engagement are Founder conversation with coworkers and are also tracked to support coworking - section 3.2

Mentor Network Activation

A key element of CBRIN's mission is to connect a wide range of mentors (including investors and experts) with relevant experience to entrepreneurs with the goal of empowering those entrepreneurs to have more impact. Mentors engage through showcase events, small networking sessions, individual meetings, and a mentor newsletter. Recent activity includes but is not limited to:

- 46 mentors engaged or active
- 61 external connections tracked (referrals between entrepreneurs, mentors and investors)
- 2 mentor/investor events (hosted or attended by CBRIN)

- 32 in-depth meetings with investors and mentors, including new local experienced business people, also venture funds including Scalare, Tractor Ventures and Pinery Capital.

Entrepreneur in Residence

The Entrepreneur in Residence (EIR) program connects founders with experienced entrepreneurs. This program is complementary to the broader mentor network and our other programs. The goal is to offer fresh input from highly experienced advisors, as well as help founders identify the key challenges and opportunities to improve their business.

The roster of entrepreneurs expanded this quarter to include current entrepreneurs in residence are Ken Kroeger of ACTivate Capital, Nick McNaughton of OzReps and now with the new addition of Peter Lilley, formerly CEO of Instacluster. In this quarter there was a total of 20 EIR sessions:

- Ken Kroeger conducted 8 1-hour EIR sessions
- Nick McNaughton conducted 8 30-minute EIR sessions
- Peter Lilley conducted 4 45-minute EIR sessions

Mentor and Investor Events

As part of the Mentor Network, CBRIN organises and participates in events. This quarter, CBRIN hosted and participated in two mentor / investor events:

- 10 February 2026 - Hosted a buy-your-own-drink mentor and investor drinks - 14 investors attended, strong feedback to do this more often
- 12 March 2026 - Hosted a buy-your-own-drink investor drinks - 10 investors attended

Additionally, Airtree Ventures visited CBRIN on 31 March 2026 and hosted informal office hours with 2 companies.

GRIFFIN Accelerator

The GRIFFIN Accelerator is a three-month intensive program run by a group of seasoned Canberra entrepreneurs who invest in, host, coach and mentor selected startups to create successful high-growth businesses. CBRIN growth team run weekly workshops to help the companies become more "investment ready". At the conclusion of the program, teams pitch to the mentors to raise capital for their startups.

Griffin 12 cohort

Following completion of the core program in the previous quarter, the Griffin mentors worked on investments in five of the teams. The CBRIN team provided some support to the entrepreneurs during this process.

Scaleup Program

Scaleup Leaders Sessions

Scaleup leaders' sessions are facilitated high-value group conversations between leaders of ambitious technology companies at the growth stage. Specifically, the companies are:

- Raising significant capital, typically Series A+
- Commercialising substantial IP or competitive advantage
- Rapidly growing their team or sales.

CBRIN holds two types of session as part of Scale Up Leaders program:

- Inner Circle sessions: an experienced facilitator enables discussions between the business leader peers about relevant challenges they are experiencing or likely to experience soon, reflecting on progress and success in a high-trust confidential peer group conversation.
- Deep Dive sessions: we invite a guest to share beyond the general on a particular experience or topic.

Session	Topic	Participants
17 February 2026	Commercial partnerships - with Annabel Griffin, KWM partner	21
24 March 2026	Scaleup leaders drinks with Peter Lilley (cofounder Instacluster)	6



Scaleup Scaleup Leaders 17 February 2026. Companies represented include WhatWorks, Evaluate8, Nature Helm, Rocket Remit, HYREA, WaitOnce, Cognitive Advantage, Wastecheck, ACTS Education, Panop, Aratherm, Hyperscalers, Clubland, Terria.io, Hydric, Vibe Dynamics, Trellis Data, PPB Technology

Selected ecosystem company updates

Canberra innovation companies announced \$4.8 Million new funding in Q3 2025-26

This figure includes capital raised from venture capital, angel investors and grant funding announced during the quarter. This figure reflects transactions that have been announced, noting the amount may be higher, in some cases raises are not publicly

announced for various commercial reasons. The figure this quarter includes \$4.8M IGP raised by Syenta. We are aware of substantial capital raises that have not yet been announced so will be included in future quarterly reports when announced.

The table below summarises alumni companies highlights this quarter. This includes significant progress updates and highlights for those companies that have benefited from CBRIN's assistance or have been an active part of our ecosystem.

Key:

- Griffin Accelerator = GA
- Scaleup Leaders Group = SLG
- SME Accelerator = SME
- Investor Showcase = IS
- Growth Lab = GL
- Founder Conversations = FC
- Coworking and incubation space = CW
- ICON Grant Recipient = ICON

Company, description, update	Engagement (alumni)
Advanced Navigation (acquired ANU spinout Vai photonics and has Canberra office/workshop) raised \$158M	
Cox Coach announced formal partnerships with Rowing Victoria and Rowing Queensland	FC, ICON
Dragonfly Thinking: featured in AFR Weekend, also secured Sue Blake former CIO of the future fund as chair of the board.	FC, SLG
Goboat trade sale of local SME (terms not disclosed)	
Future Swirl – Maddi Easterbrook named in Canberra Times 30 under 30	FC, ICON, GA, CW
Haast listed in Dynamic Business's "Australian AI Startups to Watch in 2026"	GA, ICON, FC, CW, SLG
Microforest Collective secured a grant from Wedgetail Foundation	FC
Panop featured in InnovationAus	FC, GA, ICON, SLG
PPB Technology featured on ABC Landline.	GA, ICON, SLG, GC
Psyquility – Zak Farag named in Canberra Times 30 under 30	GA, CW, FC
Syenta wins \$4.8M grant from Industry Growth Program	GA, FC, SLG, IS, GL, CW

DIRECTION 3 PLACEMAKING

Goal: Strengthen the role of CBRIN as the ACT's central innovation hub with active linkages to a powerful network of innovation precincts that work together to grow new industries and solve complex problems by leveraging science, innovation and entrepreneurship.

Activities under this direction include:

- Designing and delivering engagement, marketing and promotional activities and events that showcase success stories and facilitate access to opportunities.
- Managing and enhancing the physical infrastructure of the central innovation hub in the ACT.
- Building and nurturing partnerships that connect other innovation hubs and grow vibrancy, diversity and connectivity of the ecosystem.

Theme 3.1 Ecosystem Engagement

Objective: Collaborate to design and deliver a comprehensive set of engagement activities and events that connect, empower and diversify our innovation ecosystem and support delivery of this workplan through effective communication and marketing.

Our Engagement and Marketing Initiatives under this Theme and Objective include:

- marketing and events to connect people to programs and initiatives of the ACT innovation ecosystem,
- profiling of and strengthening engagement with entrepreneurs and under-represented groups,
- public relations and related activities to tell the stories of Canberra-born innovation and entrepreneurship and to position Canberra as the place where science and research meets innovation and entrepreneurship,
- activities to strengthen engagement with Foundation Members, Partners, innovation precincts, key sectors, other connected innovation hubs and initiatives, and the broader region (additional and complementary to activities in Direction 1)
- target relevant regional, national or international events and engagements (such as inbound and outbound visits and delegations) to promote the Canberra innovation ecosystem,
- marketing campaigns to promote Canberra as a city of innovation.
- connecting key CBRIN events like innovation showcase, female founders, First Wednesday, Billion Dollar Panel into an innovation festival-like offering.

Outcome: Canberra innovation ecosystem breadth, connectivity, diversity, and brand reputation strengthened.

Overview

Summary: This quarter, CBRIN held or hosted 62 events, attracting 1,910 participants. Two First Wednesday Connect events drew 298 (February) and 198 (March) registrations, averaging 248 per event.

Social media reach grew significantly. Instagram reach climbed 21.5%, LinkedIn reach jumped 64.3%, and Facebook reach rose 41.2%. Our weekly newsletter reached 11,238 contacts, with open rates averaging 16.8% across the quarter. The website delivered 11,698 sessions, with Google organic overtaking direct traffic as our leading channel for the first time.

Paid campaigns continued to perform well, with cost-per-click rates ranging from \$0.27 to \$0.53. The First Wednesday Connect ACU campaign was the standout, reaching 24,340 people and generating 743 link clicks. The coworking video campaign also delivered strong results, reaching 19,461 people with 370 clicks.

Content efforts centred on community storytelling through the Innovation Station blog, coworking space promotion, and event coverage. Ten blog posts were published, covering topics from energy transition to capital-raising myths. Region Media coverage delivered 8,338 readers across three feature articles, with social reach of 13,593 and 387 engagements.

Media & PR

- [TEDxCanberra Adventure: Awakening City Hill](#) | 9 February 2026
- [Female Founders: Panel](#) | 16 February 2026
- [Book Launch: Handbook of Innovation Ecosystems | John H. Howard](#) | 16 February 2026
- [First Wednesday Connect March 2026](#) | 16 February 2026
- [Things to do in Canberra this week \(13 to 19 March\)](#) | 12 March 2026
- [Calling young innovators: hack the future of Canberra transport and you could win your share of \\$10,000](#) | 18 March 2026
- [Things to do in Canberra this week \(3 - 9 April\)](#) | 2 April 2026

Video, Photo, Web & Design

- WhatWorks Website Completed
- First Wednesday Connect February @ City and Environment Directorate
- First Wednesday Connect March @ CIT Woden
- First Wednesday Connect @ ACU Watson

Region Media Engagement Metrics

- Published 3 feature articles delivering 8,338 readers

- Articles were shared through email distributions and delivered 46,539 views and 796 clicks
- Best in Canberra articles received 137 views and 2 clicks
- Social media posts received a reach of 13,593 and 387 engagements

Innovation Station

CBRIN's regular blogging platform engages with the innovation community, profiles entrepreneurs, innovators, and businesses, and shares industry news and CBRIN highlights. Articles are shared on owned-and-operated channels.

Topics for this quarter included:

- [Not-For-Profit Innovation Forum](#) | Published on 05 Jan 2026
- [So, you're thinking of coming along to a Female Founders event?](#) | Published on 01 Feb 2026
- [Pinary Capital - The Takeaway Ed. 10](#) | Published on 04 Feb 2026
- [Human Connection. Relationships. Customers.](#) | Published on 11 Feb 2026
- [Accelerating Canberra's Energy Transition](#) | Published on 24 Feb 2026
- [Ten years of Idea to Impact Workshops](#) | Published on 11 Mar 2026
- [Navitas x CBRIN Partnership announcement](#) | Published on 20 Mar 2026
- [Pinary Capital - The Takeaway Ed. 11](#) | Published on 23 Mar 2026
- [TEDxCanberraAdventure: Awakening City Hill is a Wrap!](#) | Published on 26 Mar 2026
- [Common Myths about Raising Capital](#) | Published on 30 Mar 2026

Paid Advertisement Insights

To expand our reach, CBRIN executed multiple advertising campaigns during the quarter to promote various events and programs. Campaign objectives ranged from driving link clicks to building general brand awareness.

CBRIN targeting approach focused geographically on Canberra residents and those within a 100km radius, encompassing regional centres such as Yass, Goulburn, and Braidwood, without specific gender or age restrictions. Behavioural and psychographic targeting was tailored to individuals with interests in entrepreneurship, innovation, Canberra small business, and related business topics, with specific parameters adjusted according to each advertisement's focus.

Campaign name	Reach	Impressions	Link clicks	CPC*
General Female Founders	5292	7440	101	\$0.38
General First Wednesday Connect	2536	3595	36	\$0.31
First Wednesday V2	2110	2676	45	\$0.28
Coworking Video	19461	29573	370	\$0.39
Coworking General	2001	2047	12	\$0.53

Coworking General V2	4975	5749	55	\$0.40
SME Breakfast	4661	8312	103	\$0.32
First Wednesday Connect CIT	9749	16354	346	\$0.29
Female Founders Panel	1870	2973	74	0.27
First Wednesday Connect ACU	24340	53284	743	0.34

*Cost Per link Click

Social media insights

	Facebook	Instagram	LinkedIn
Reach	126,093 41.2%	26,038 21.5%	10,779 64.3%
Profile visits	1,718 62.7%	518 8.0%	947 5.5%
Followers	5,940	2,977	8382
New followers	83 6.7%	147 5.8%	182 7.6%
Post engagement	203 3.6%	220 12.2%	210 32.3%

Weekly Newsletter Statistics

11,238 (73 new) contacts, 6,351 subscribers (40.8% female)

Table: Weekly Newsletter Click rates

Stats	20 Jan	27 Jan	3 Feb	10 Feb	17 Feb	24 Feb	3 Mar	10 Mar	17 Mar	24 Mar	31 Mar
Av. Open Rate	18.7%	16.3%	16.9%	16.4%	18.6%	18.2%	16%	15.8%	16.8%	15.5%	16.2%
Av. Click Rate	2.7%	2.3%	1.9%	1.5%	1.8%	1.5%	1.3%	1.5%	1.4%	1.6%	1.9%

Website performance

Sessions 	Pages per session	Scroll depth	Active time spent 
11,698 2,747 bot sessions excluded	1.99 average	52.57% average	1.6 min out of 4.6 min (total time)

Overview

The website delivered 11,698 sessions with an average active time of 1.6 minutes across 1 January 2026 to 31 March 2026. Pages per session averaged 1.99, and scroll depth sat at 52.57%. A total of 2,747 bot sessions were excluded from reporting.

Traffic Performance

Google led our referral sources with 3,846 sessions, followed by direct traffic via cbrin.com.au at 2,510 sessions. Social channels contributed strongly, with Facebook driving 539 sessions and LinkedIn adding 138. Bing organic delivered 364 sessions, and notably, the ACT Government site (act.gov.au) brought in 354 sessions, reflecting our public sector connections.

Top traffic sources:

- google.com (organic), 3,846 sessions
- cbrin.com.au (direct), 2,510 sessions
- m.facebook.com (social), 539 sessions
- bing.com (organic), 364 sessions
- act.gov.au (referral), 354 sessions
- linkedin.com (social), 138 sessions

User Profile

The site attracted 7,621 unique users this quarter. New visitors made up 69.52% of sessions (8,133), while returning visitors accounted for 30.48% (3,565). This healthy mix signals growing community awareness alongside solid retention of existing members.

Content Engagement and Smart Events

Outbound clicks topped the smart events at 897 sessions, followed by sign ups (349), bookings (327), and checkouts (271). The "Show more" action logged 213 sessions, contact us drew 50, and form submissions totalled 45. Quick backs remained low at 11.10% (1,299 sessions), indicating visitors found relevant content quickly.

Top Pages

The homepage led with 3,523 pageviews. The ICON programs page (857) and coworking page (828) followed closely. Events (704) and First Wednesday Connect (627) rounded out the top five, highlighting strong interest in our programming and community spaces.

Site Performance

Performance scored 78 out of 100 across 1,494 pageviews. Of those, 55.2% rated good, 38.2% needed improvement, and 6.6% rated poor. These scores reflect three core measures: how fast the main content loads, how quickly the site responds to user interaction, and how stable the page layout remains while loading.

Bot Traffic

Bot sessions accounted for 19.02% of total traffic (2,747 sessions). The majority were classified as suspicious interactions (2,675) and suspicious devices (2,109). Web scrapers (442) and suspicious origin traffic (402) made up the remainder.

Key Insights

Google organic overtook direct traffic as the leading channel this quarter, a positive shift suggesting improved search visibility. The 30.48% returning visitor rate shows our community continues to come back. Strong engagement on the ICON programs and coworking pages confirms these are core drawcards for our audience. Strengthening email and referral pathways remains an opportunity heading into Q2 2026.

Events & Engagement

This quarter: CBRIN registered 62 events held with 1,910 participants

Financial Year-to-date: 7,581 participants for 229 events

	Events	Participants
January 2026	6	115
February 2026	22	794
March 2026	34	1,001

Regular Recurring Events: CBRIN Extended Team Meeting, First Wednesday Connect (monthly with exception of January), Female Founders (bi-monthly), Stakeholder Advisory Committee (quarterly)

First Wednesday Connect

Overall, as of the end of the quarter, CBRIN has had 25,158 registrations of which 12,816 were unique (by email addresses registered) registrations for 118 First Wednesday Connects and Innovation Showcase events since 1 July 2015.

First Wednesday Connect 4 February 2026

City and Environment Directorate (CED)

Co-Hosted by Industry Capability Network (ICN)

298 registrations: 38% new participants

Audience: 31% entrepreneurs, 14% students, 12% Corporate, 7% public servants, 7% creatives, 7% SME, 4% researchers, 2% investors and 17% other

Speakers:

- James Jayaweera, Zephyria
- Anita Healey, ACT Gov Sustainable
- Morgan Ferrier, ICN ACT
- Tim Matthis, AI in Aus
- Kate Stevens, Female Founders
- Jack Cassidy, Energy Innovation Ecosystem
- Craig Davis, "Big Goal, Many Steps"
- Debbie Saunders, NatureHelm
- Tina Dsouza, Clipper Aeronautics
- Lesley Seebeck/Michelle Price, Statekraft
- Rhys Kissell, Defence Tech Hackathon

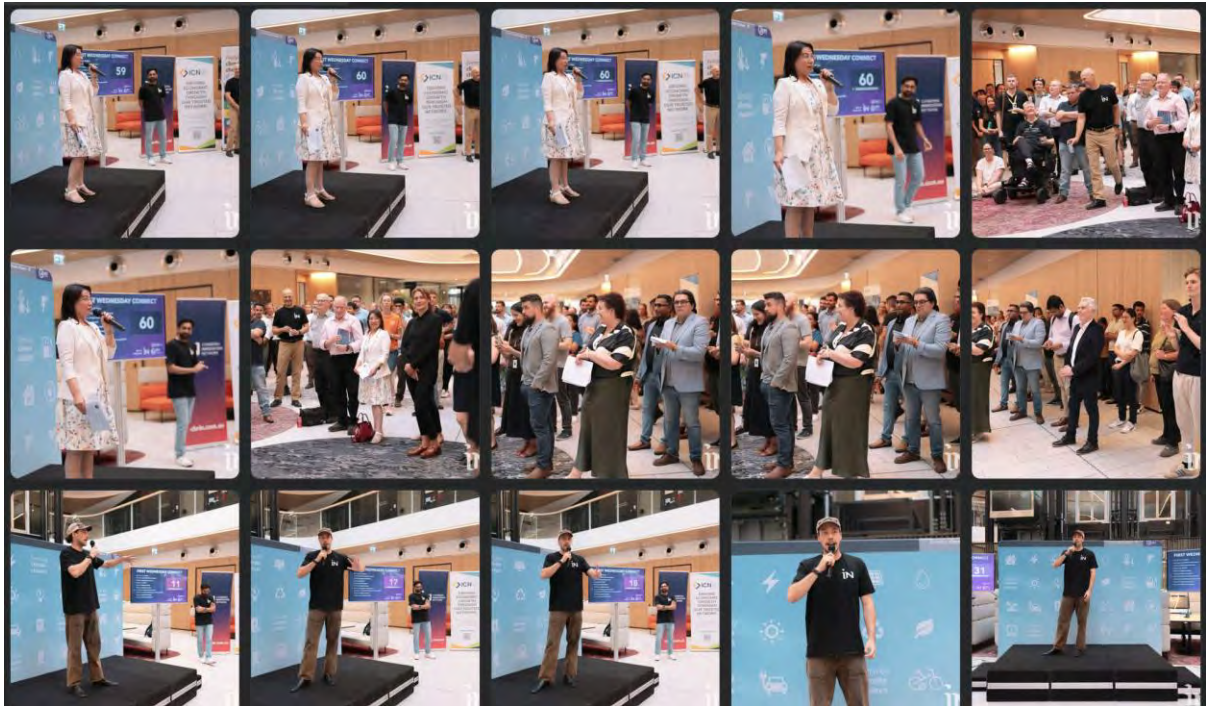


Image: Collage from FWC February 2026

First Wednesday Connect 4 March 2026

Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT)

198 registrations: 39% new participants

Audience: 26% entrepreneurs, 12% students, 9% Corporate, 13% public servants, 4% creatives, 9% SME, 7% researchers, 3% investors and 17% other

Speakers:

- Chimwemwe Mpaso, CIT Renewables Centre of Excellence
- Fiona Dace-Lynn, CIT Trade Skills
- James Folk, CIT Construction
- Jessica Viduka, CIT Accounting and Project Management
- Maïke Brill, Lunch & Learn
- Mitch Porteous, TedX City Hill Activation
- Geoff McGinley, Adapt Homes
- imon Priest, ODIS
- Tina McIntosh, Boost Labs
- Meg Salter, Recruitable Hub



Image: Collage from FWC March 2026

Testimonials:

"From the moment I arrived, everyone was incredibly welcoming. The Canberra Innovation Network Team—led by experienced entrepreneurs—has clearly cultivated an environment where new founders, innovators, and small business owners feel supported and encouraged. The event was exceptionally well organised, the food was delicious, and I especially appreciated the fact that the event offered only non-alcoholic drinks." - Diana Flora Padron Novoa

"As a new business owner, it was my first time to any of these events. I enjoyed the atmosphere, refreshments, venue, the speakers were informative, and I did meet another female neurodivergent business owner that I clicked with, and we are now following each other on LinkedIn... Thanks for this wonderful opportunity to speak to likeminded individuals." - Alexis Garai

"CBRIN always provide a safe and comforting environment for events." - Malcolm Towney

"It's inspiring to see a network so committed to offering skills, support, and funding opportunities to help innovative businesses grow. I left feeling energised, connected, and grateful to be part of such a vibrant community. Thank you for creating such a positive space for entrepreneurs in Canberra." - Diana Flora Padron Novoa

Regional, National and International Engagement

In this reporting period CBRIN tracked the following 12 engagements with reach outside of the ACT. Specifically, 6 can be characterised as regional (impact in Canberra region beyond ACT), 5 national, and 1 as international engagement.

- 7 January 2026: National Youth Science Forum
- 6 February 2026: Pitch and Value proposition mini workshop at Defence Hackathon at UNSW
- 23 February 2026: Guest Lecture on innovation for UC IT capstone 200 students including online
- 18 February 2026: Pitching at UNSW Workshop to 24 Researchers
- 25 February 2026: Indian University Delegation visit to CBRIN
- 10-12 March 2026: CBRIN attended CAWSYD26 in Sydney
- 17 March 2026: Southstart (Adelaide) workshop led by Canberra Innovation Network
- 19 March 2026: CBRIN on the Mill House Social Enterprise Panel
- 19 March 2026: TedXCanberra City Hill
- 23 March 2026: CBRIN attended the Parliamentary Innovation Showcase
- 24 March 2026: Guest lecture at ANU School of Cybernetics
- 27 March 2026: CBRIN provided judging and mentorship for the Illuminate Community Challenge for the year 6 cohort at Canberra Girls Grammar School



Image: Climate Leadership Forum

Southstart, Adelaide, 17 March 2026, 55 participants

CBRIN was successful in securing a speaking slot at Southstart, one of Australia's most prestigious annual startup events hosted in Adelaide. Our Ecosystem Builders lab attracted 55 registrations (full capacity) with extra attendees trying to get in the session. We engaged a cohort of founders, investors and ecosystem leaders through curated presentation and activities focused on helping people learn from the ACT experience. The team, Petr

Adamek, Craig Davis and our special guest Kali Norman from Perth have positioned the Canberra Innovation ecosystem as accessible, collaborative and well supported by the ACT Government and our Foundation Members, Education partners and Gold partners. We drew on concrete examples from local programs, facilities and founder pathways. Exposure at a national forum of this nature help strengthen awareness of Canberra as a credible place to start and scale innovation activities, it supports relationship building with interstate investors and partners, and creates a pipeline of potential collaborations that can grow our ecosystem reach and visibility.



Image: 2026 Southstart Ecosystem Builders Lab at Stone & Chalk in Adelaide

Other Event Support & Engagement

Events held in the CBRIN space this Quarter:

- 7 January 2026: National Youth Science Forum hosted in L5 Events Room by CBRIN
- 4 February 2026: First Wednesday Connect hosted in L4 by CBRIN, 298 attendees
- 10 February 2026: Female Founders Tradeshow hosted across L4 Open Plan, River Oak and Black by CBRIN
- 25 February 2026: University Delegation from India hosted in L4 River Oak, 40 attendees
- 4 March 2026: First Wednesday Connect hosted at CIT Woden by CBRIN x CIT, 198 attendees
- 10 March 2026: Female Founders Panel hosted in L5 Events Room by CBRIN, 43 attendees
- 19 March 2026: City Hill Challenge: TedX and Mitch Porteous hosted in L5 Events Room, 50 attendees
- 24 March: Fireside Chat with Pete Lilley hosted in L5 Events Room by CBRIN, 47 attendees

Regular Bookings:

- Yellow Hat Consulting, 301 attendees (13 sessions)
- AI Colab, 248 attendees (12 sessions covering AI analytics, public submissions, productivity, and agentic era topics)
- RD Consulting, 110 attendees (7 sessions)
- Cam Sullings, 42 attendees (3 sessions)
- Modern42, 20 attendees (1 session)
- Aryal Technologies, 4 attendees (1 session)
- ZeitgeistCT, 12 attendees (2 sessions, Vocal Presence Pilot Program)

Theme 3.2 Innovation Hub(s)

Objective: Deliver and grow coworking in the central innovation hub, work with others to connect their hubs into a network offering for entrepreneurs & innovators in Canberra and beyond.

Under this Theme / Objective CBRIN will:

- Deliver entrepreneur-focused subsidised coworking and office space for scale ups and SMEs, including community building activities as a fundamental building block of the Innovation Hub at Level 5, 1 Moore St, Canberra.
- Work with the ACT Government to grow availability of space within the 1 Moore Street and work with operators of other innovation hubs and precincts across in Canberra, including Foundation Members, to coordinate a connected offering for innovative entrepreneurs.

Outcome: Capacity and interactivity of diverse offerings that accommodate innovative companies in Canberra grows.

Coworking at Canberra Innovation Network

CBRIN's Coworking space is a thriving community of entrepreneurs, startups, researchers, innovators, scaleups, and SMEs. Located in the heart of Canberra's CBD, spanning two floors, CBRIN Coworking is dedicated to connecting and energising the innovation community.

CBRIN Coworking incorporates an open-plan coworking space on Level 5, with 112 full time desks and 26 community desks, and a ScaleUp and SME Hub on Level 4, with 21 furnished offices ranging in size from 4-person to 24-person capacity.

Offering "more than just a place to work", CBRIN coworking residents have access to mentors, experts and events tailored to their needs. Coworking events are designed to activate and encourage the collaborative community across the 2 floors.

With access to meeting rooms, breakout spaces, shared kitchens and dining spaces, end-of-trip facilities, high speed internet with Wi-Fi coverage, printing facilities, as well as access to private mentorship, we aspire to create the perfect place to launch and grow an innovative business in Canberra.

Coworking is an integral part of the CBRIN pipeline, with coworking residents frequently participating in growth programs, events, and collaborative events as attendees, panel members, and mentors.

Key Achievements & Activities this Quarter

- Refurbishment work done on Level 5 - with installation of new carpet, paint, acoustic panels, technology, cabinetry, and lighting in the lobby, hallways, meeting rooms, and events rooms
- 15 new companies / teams joined the CBRIN Coworking Space

- 10 events held for the community to encourage networking and collaboration, and connecting the communities on Levels 4 and 5
- The coworking newsletter has 248 subscribers with an average open rate of 36.8%.
- As of 31 March 2026 there were:
 - o 86 companies and 279 active members across the 2 floors
 - o 72* companies active in CBRIN Level 5 Coworking with 152 members
 - o 14 companies active in the CBRIN Level 4 ScaleUp and SME Hub with 127 members **
 - o 76% office occupancy in the ScaleUp and SME Hub
 - o 70 full-time memberships (dedicated desks), 82 part-time and casual memberships
 - o Female members: 108 (39%)
 - o Non-Binary members: 1 (1%)
 - o CALD members: 90 (32%)

*Note: *The number is at end of quarter – total number of companies working in the space during the quarter may be higher as some companies ended their membership before 31 March 2026.*

*** The number of members who use Level 4 may be different from office/desk capacity taken on Level 4 as reported in the following section. The number here is number of memberships assigned to companies with residence on Level 4. Capacity utilised reported in next section is a number of desks in offices provided to companies on Level 4). Some companies may have more members than office capacity as not all people are working in the office at all times and some may choose to be renting an office with bigger capacity than their team size anticipating future growth.*

Item (2025/2026)	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
a. Number of full time desks available on Level 5 for rent	112	112	112	112	112	112	112	112	112
b. Number of rented desks as the end of month on Level 5	50	55	69	72	69	71	70	67	70
c. Number of hot desks available for use on Level 5	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26
d. Number of work days in the month	23	21	22	22	20	15	20	20	21
e. Number of 1 day per week part-time memberships at the end of the month	23	25	22	22	16	18	21	22	24
f. Number of 2 day per week part-time memberships at the end of the month	3	2	4	7	6	5	4	6	9
g. Number of 3 day per week part-time memberships at the end of the month	4	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	2
h. Casual days sold in the month	4	7	14	17	10	31	21	26	14
j. Work weeks in the month (d / 5)	4.6	4.2	4.4	4.4	4	3	4	4	4.2
k. Days * hotdesks used in a month = (e +2*f+3*g)*j)+h	192.6	154	172.4	188.6	134	133	161	186	215.6
l. Days * hotdesks available for use in the entire month (c*d)	598	546	572	572	520	390	520	520	546
m. Hotdesk days occupancy rate (k/l)	32%	28%	30%	33%	26%	34%	31%	36%	39%
n. FT desk occupancy rate (b/a)	45%	49%	62%	64%	62%	63%	63%	60%	63%

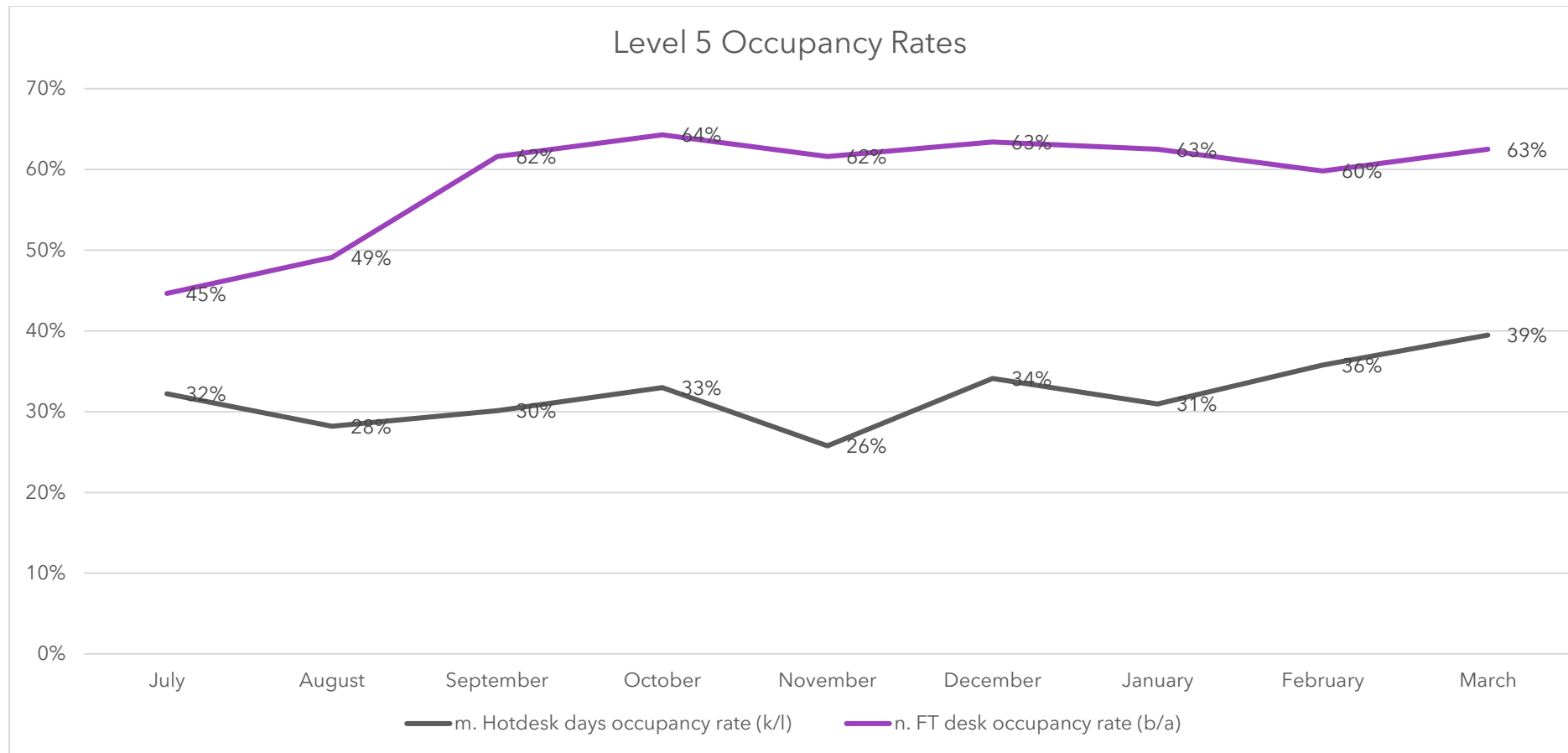


Image: graph showing occupancy rates for Level 5 Coworking

Overview of Coworking Companies and Members this Quarter

	Numbers of companies at end last quarter	Number of companies that worked in the space overall during the quarter	Number of companies that joined the space	Number of companies that left the space or became inactive	Companies Active on 31 March 2026
Level 4	13	14	1	0	14
Level 5	62	76	19	9	72
Total	75	87	20	9	86

New companies:

Level 5:

1. Fair Play LSP
2. NatureHelm
3. Futures Club
4. Bluefox SAS
5. Metaphyle
6. Qlixs.ai
7. The Data Conversation
8. National Landcare Network
9. Harry Lees
10. Agilme Consulting Pty Ltd
11. Conform Solutions
12. Ambucares
13. Zeitgeist
14. Trustclubcafe
15. Paid X/Bruhith (returned for short period)
16. Think Boldly (returned for short period)

- 17. Horiz-in
- 18. Summer Foundation
- 19. Siemens Mobility (returned)

Level 4:

- 1. Himayat

Notes on change in numbers from Q2:

- 2 companies with casual memberships were deactivated due to inactivity (Dirt Maidens, Haast)
- 1 company, Epicorp, removed from list to avoid double-counting; they are still working in the space, but under ACTivate Capital on Level 4
- 6 companies ended membership for other reasons: See Me Please (another venture), Green Mile Tech (moved to Sydney), Telus International (working onsite for client), PaidX (working onsite for client), Cosive (paused for 2 months while interstate), Think Boldly (short term membership)

Companies working the CBRIN ScaleUp Hub (Level 4) this Quarter

Count	Company	Capacity	Industry (ANZSIC code)	Growth Stage	Description
1	Modern42 / Apporetum	24	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	Scale Up - innovation driven and >1M raised or 20+ FTE	Modern42 provide cyber security services for organisations across Federal, State and Local Government and private organisations. Modern42 specialise in Identity and Access Management (IAM), Privileged Access Management (PAM), Cloud Engineering, and Cloud Infrastructure. Apporetum is an Identity and Access Management Product developed by Modern42's founders.
2	AI CoLab	18 (3 offices)	8101 - Technical and Vocational Education and Training	Other - eg VC, grant org, large company, branch office here	The AI CoLab Alliance comprise of purpose-driven allies from governments, nonprofits, industry and academia, combining strengths to advance inclusive, impactful uses of AI. (3 offices)
3	MCI Carbon	7	2139 - Other Basic Chemical Product Manufacturing n.e.c	Impact Company - high growth and 50+ FTE	MCI Carbon have developed capture technology that safely captures and converts industrial CO2 emissions into solid bulk materials used in new low-carbon products for

Count	Company	Capacity	Industry (ANZSIC code)	Growth Stage	Description
					construction, manufacturing and consumer markets - enabling a circular economy
4	GPN Vaccines	7	1841 - Pharmaceutical Product Manufacturing	Scale Up - innovation driven and >1M raised or 20+ FTE	GPN Vaccines are a clinical-stage company focused on creating innovative vaccines that offer robust protection against the world's most important bacterial pathogens.
5	Bluebird Advisory	5	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	Bluebird provide innovative solutions in digital transformations, data analytics, cyber security, project delivery, change management, and financial optimisation.
6	Redacted	4	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	Redacted Information Security provides strategic level systems security planning, IRAP assessments, security training, and consulting.
7	What Works	10	6940 - Advertising and Market Research Services	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	What Works provide tailored brand, product, and growth services to business with an innovation focus.
8	RD	17	6940 - Advertising and Market Research Services	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	RD is a creative communication agency focused on cutting-edge tech, digital innovation
9	Mesh Cyber	8	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	Mesh Cyber are a specialist cyber security company currently working in Federal Government and Critical Infrastructure space, building an automated assessment tool.
10	ACTivate Capital	4	6240 - Financial Asset Investing	Other - eg VC, grant org, large company, branch office here	ACTivate Capital, backed by the ACT Government and our local universities, is a Canberra focused investment fund, working closely with the Territory's research institutions to help transform new ideas into investable opportunities, strengthening connections between academia and industry
11	Dentroid	5	2419 - Professional and Scientific Equipment Manufacturing n.e.c.	Scale Up - innovation driven and >1M raised or 20+ FTE	Dentroid is an Australian startup company pioneering a paradigm shift in dental treatment making it more precise, pain-free and convenient for patients and dental practitioners.

Count	Company	Capacity	Industry (ANZSIC code)	Growth Stage	Description
12	Yellow Hat	5	6962 – Management Advice and Other Consulting Services	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	Yellow Hat supports executives to drive change through co-design and change services.
13	QX Tech	7	7000 – Computer System Design and Related Services	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	QX Tech provide outsourced IT services, industry-specific software, and innovative business platforms.
14	Himayat	5	7211 Employment Placement and Recruitment Services	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	Himayat is a social enterprise that helps migrants and refugees in Australia find work, navigate services, and feel at home with support led by people who've walked the same path.
	Total	126			14 companies in 16 offices

Note: 14 tenants in 16 out of 21 offices (76% office occupancy) with capacity of 126 out of 169 available (75% capacity occupancy rate) taken as of 31 December 2025. Capacity = number of desks in an office that the resident company occupies.

Companies working in the CBRIN Coworking Space (Level 5) this Quarter

Count	Company Name	Summary	Growth Stage	Primary ANZSIC Code	Secondary ANZSIC Code
1.	3DS Group	Engineering and drafting services specializing in 3D modelling.	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	6923 – Engineering Design and Engineering Consulting Services	7000 – Computer System Design and Related Services
2.	ADS Solar Australia	Solar installation services targeting energy sector	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	3232 – Electrical Services	2611 – Fossil Fuel Electricity Generation
3.	Agape	Gaming/educational software for STEM education	Startup or idea	7000 – Computer System Design and Related Services	8101 – Technical and Vocational Education and Training
4.	Agileme Consulting Pty Ltd	Provide ICT contracting and consulting services in the Agile space	Startup or idea	7000 – Computer System Design and Related Services	6962 – Management Advice and Related Consulting Services

Count	Company Name	Summary	Growth Stage	Primary ANZSIC Code	Secondary ANZSIC Code
5.	AI in Australia	AI consulting and training services specialising in AI strategy, readiness assessments, data architecture, governance frameworks, and AI implementation for organisations.	Startup or Idea	6962 - Management Advice and Related Consulting Services	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services
6.	Ambucares	Community-based provider delivering culturally sensitive disability, community nursing, and in-home care services.	Startup or Idea	8609 Other Residential Care Services	
7.	Aratherm	Energy consulting for industrial clients	Early growth - 100k to 1M raised, or 3+ FTE	6962 - Management Advice and Related Consulting Services	1090 - Other Mining Support Services
8.	Aryal Technologies	Software engineering partner helping organisations design, build, and support innovative technology solutions.	Startup or idea	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	
9.	Avian	Digital strategy, design thinking, and delivery specialists helping government, education, and private sector clients.	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	6962 - Management Advice and Related Consulting Services
10.	Bakesale	Marketplace platform for food retail	Startup or idea	7000 - Computer Programming Services	4310 - Non-Store Retailing
11.	Big Blue Dot / Centre for Earned Impact	Social impact consulting and advisory services with focus on entrepreneurs.	Startup or idea	6962 - Management Advice and Related Consulting Services	6999 - Other Professional, Scientific and Technical Services
12.	Bluefox SAS	Intelligent Compliance Engine for KYC - a SaaS solution for AI driven KYC, due diligence and compliance tasks	Startup or idea	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	6962 - Management Advice and Related Consulting Services
13.	Blue Sky Digital	Digital signage services and network	Startup or idea	6940 - Advertising and Market Research Services	5809 - Other Telecommunications Services

Count	Company Name	Summary	Growth Stage	Primary ANZSIC Code	Secondary ANZSIC Code
14.	blueegg	UX design services for digital products	Medium Biz - 20+ FTE, innovation potential, not high-growth	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	
15.	BOOST Health Labs	Brain re-training gaming software for chronic pain	Early growth - 100k to 1M raised, or 3+ FTE	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	8539 - Other Allied Health Services
16.	BU Partners	Business consulting and advisory services for companies exiting.	Startup or idea	6962 - Management Advice and Related Consulting Services	
17.	Canberra Build Club	AI education and training and MeetUps.	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	8101 - Technical and Vocational Education and Training	
18.	Campus Plus	Commercialisation consulting for universities	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	6962 - Management Advice and Related Consulting Services	8102 - Higher Education
19.	Conform Solutions	Provides technical advice and automations for SMEs	Startup or Idea	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	
20.	Cosive	Cybersecurity consulting across sectors	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	
21.	Counterpoint Law	Female-led legal services and advisory.	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	6931 - Legal Services	
22.	Disaster Science	Emergency response technology (Bushfire.io platform)	Startup or idea	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	7713 - Fire Protection and Emergency Services
23.	dsq studio / MEOS Labs	Venture studio/startup consulting with tech development	Startup or idea	6962 - Management Advice and Related Consulting Services	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services

Count	Company Name	Summary	Growth Stage	Primary ANZSIC Code	Secondary ANZSIC Code
24.	Eldane	Architecture/interior design services	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	6921 - Architectural Services	2511 - Wooden Furniture and Upholstered Seat Manufacturing
25.	eReflect	Educational software development	Other - eg VC, grant org, large company, branch office here	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	8101 - Technical and Vocational Education and Training
26.	European Energy	Develops, constructs, and operates large scale renewable energy projects.	Other - eg VC, grant org, large company, branch office here	2619 - Other Electricity Generation	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services
27.	Evalue8 Sustainability	Carbon accounting software for businesses	Early growth - 100k to 1M raised, or 3+ FTE	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	6962 - Management Advice and Related Consulting Services
28.	Evee	Electric vehicle rental platform connecting car owners with renters across Australia.	Scale Up - innovation driven and >1M raised or 20+ FTE	6619 - Other Motor Vehicle and Transport Equipment Rental and Hiring	
29.	Everything Good is Possible	Workplace support and consulting services for neurodivergent employees.	Startup or idea	6999 - Other Professional, Scientific and Technical Services n.e.c.	8219 - Adult, Community and Other Education n.e.c. (not elsewhere classified).
30.	Fair Play LSP	Tech consultancy + LEGO Serious Play facilitation practice. Flipping the switch on traditional ways that meetings & workshops are delivered.	Startup or Idea	6962 - Management Advice and Related Consulting Services	
31.	Future Swirl	Oat milk soft serve and ice cream products	Early growth - 100k to 1M raised, or 3+ FTE	1132 - Ice Cream Manufacturing	
32.	Futures Club	A strategic advisory and coaching practice for business owners who want clarity, direction, and a trusted	Startup or Idea	6962 - Management Advice and Related Consulting Services	

Count	Company Name	Summary	Growth Stage	Primary ANZSIC Code	Secondary ANZSIC Code
		partner in their corner when things get complex.			
33.	Green Mile Tech Pty Ltd	Software and IT solutions provider specializing in full-stack web and mobile development, AI and Machine Learning applications, end-to-end mobile game development, and business strategy consulting for enterprises and startups.	Startup or idea	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	6962 - Management Advice and Related Consulting Services
34.	Greenprint Nature	Environmental consulting and sustainability advisory services focused on nature-based solutions.	Startup or idea	6999 - Other Professional, Scientific and Technical Services n.e.c.	6962 - Management Advice and Other Consulting Services
35.	Gridsight	AI software for power network management	Scale Up - innovation driven and >1M raised or 20+ FTE	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	2619 - Other Electricity Generation
36.	Grow Right Digital	AI recruitment software development	Startup or idea	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	7211 - Employment Placement and Recruitment Services
37.	Harry Lees	Developing a mission-based user testing and feedback platform designed to streamline the evaluation of complex products and user journeys.	Startup or Idea	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	
38.	Head in the Clouds Creative	Bespoke technology & creative agency	Startup or idea	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	
39.	Horiz-in	Real-time, custom data mapping and intelligence	Early growth - 100k to 1M raised, or 3+ FTE	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	
40.	Humaneer	HR software applications (Mak AI platform)	Early growth - 100k to 1M raised, or 3+ FTE	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	6962 - Management Advice and Related Consulting Services

Count	Company Name	Summary	Growth Stage	Primary ANZSIC Code	Secondary ANZSIC Code
41.	Indiginaus Print Pty Ltd	Printing services with Indigenous cultural focus	Startup or Idea	1611 - Printing	6940 - Advertising and Market Research Services
42.	Integrated Management Solutions	AI safety software with safety consulting	Startup or Idea	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	6962 - Management Advice and Related Consulting Services
43.	Inten Tree Pty Ltd	Digital marketing agency specialising in conversion rate optimisation, website strategy, and online business growth services.	Startup or Idea	6940 - Advertising Services	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services
44.	Levers	Fractional strategy and operations advisory services for startups and scaleups.	Startup or Idea	6962 - Management Advice and Related Consulting Services	7211 - Employment Placement and Recruitment Services
45.	Lucy Pedley Bookkeeping	Bespoke bookkeeping services for startups and SMEs.	Startup or idea	6932 - Accounting Services	-
46.	Majura Communications	Communications agency providing marketing and PR services.	Startup or Idea	6940 - Advertising and Market Research Services	6962 - Management Advice and Related Consulting Services
47.	Metaphyle	Next generation AI Startup focused on long arc human memory, cultural awareness and human agency.	Startup or Idea	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	
48.	Miiroko	Organic home hair colour products	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	1851 - Cleaning Compound and Toiletry Preparation Manufacturing	4279 - Other Store-Based Retailing n.e.c.
49.	Mindavation	Business analysis & project management training	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	8101 - Technical and Vocational Education and Training	6962 - Management Advice and Related Consulting Services
50.	National Landcare Network	Enable, connect and represent Australia's community-led Landcare movement	Other - eg VC, grant org, large company, branch office here	6962 - Management Advice and Related Consulting Services	

Count	Company Name	Summary	Growth Stage	Primary ANZSIC Code	Secondary ANZSIC Code
51.	NatureHelm	Aggregated species datasets to help businesses understand, prioritise, and manage business risks, impacts, and dependencies related to biodiversity.	Startup or Idea	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	6962 - Management Advice and Related Consulting Services
52.	NW Technology Recruitment	Tech recruitment services	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	7211 - Employment Placement and Recruitment Services	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services
53.	Opendata.studio	Data analytics software and open data platform development	Startup or Idea	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	6999 - Other Professional, Scientific and Technical Services
54.	Oscillo labs	Digital development studio for startups	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	
55.	Ozone Circle / Docify	AI powered health diagnostic kiosk using thermal imaging and machine learning for health assessments and medical reports.	Startup or Idea	8539 - Other Allied Health Services	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services
56.	PaidX / Bruthith	Marketing and paid advertising services, managing digital advertising campaigns across platforms.	Startup or idea	6940 - Advertising Services	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services
57.	Paper Assistant	SaaS AI-driven paper reading assistant designed to help academics comprehend research papers and find key details	Startup or Idea	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	8102 - Higher Education
58.	Polygon Energy	Solar installation services targeting energy sector	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	3232 - Electrical Services	2619 - Other Electricity Generation
59.	Qlixs.ai	A mobile app and desktop browser extension with a dashboard that offers recruiters a hybrid way of recruiting.	Early growth - 100k to 1M raised, or 3+ FTE	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	7211 - Employment Placement and Recruitment Services

Count	Company Name	Summary	Growth Stage	Primary ANZSIC Code	Secondary ANZSIC Code
60.	Siemens Mobility	Rail technology and systems	Other - eg VC, grant org, large company, branch office here	2399 - Other Transport Equipment Manufacturing n.e.c.	4710 - Rail Freight Transport
61.	Summer Foundation	Identifying solutions for better housing.	Other - eg VC, grant org, large company, branch office here	9559 Other Interest Group Services n.e.c	
62.	Terria.io	Digital twin platform for government	Early growth - 100k to 1M raised, or 3+ FTE	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	
63.	Telus International	Digital customer support and IT services company.	Other - eg VC, grant org, large company, branch office here	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	
64.	The Data Conversation	Data management support for community organisations, not-for-profits, and social enterprises.	Startup or Idea	6962 - Management Advice and Related Consulting Services	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services
65.	Think Boldly	Fractional CMO/marketing consulting	Startup or Idea	6962 - Management Advice and Related Consulting Services	
66.	Traceably	Digital project management solution.	Startup or idea	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	-
67.	Trustclubcafe	Building a community around healthy, safe and connected nightlife and clubbing.	Startup or idea	9559 Other Interest Group Services n.e.c	
68.	Venture Crowd	Crowdfunding platform services	Other - eg VC, grant org, large company, branch office here	6240 - Financial Asset Investing	-

Count	Company Name	Summary	Growth Stage	Primary ANZSIC Code	Secondary ANZSIC Code
69.	Venubooka	Venue booking platform software	Early growth - 100k to 1M raised, or 3+ FTE	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	6639 - Other Goods and Equipment Rental and Hiring n.e.c
70.	Veritas Group	Technology consulting for security compliance and identity verification.	Other - eg VC, grant org, large company, branch office here	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	
71.	Vibe Dynamics	Healthcare services and devices facilitating sexual function rehabilitation for complex medical conditions.	Early growth - 100k to 1M raised, or 3+ FTE	8539 - Other Allied Health Services	2419 - Professional and Scientific Equipment Manufacturing n.e.c.
72.	WaitOnce	Healthcare appointment management app	Early growth - 100k to 1M raised, or 3+ FTE	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	8539 - Other Allied Health Services
73.	WOT-link	IT solutions for SMEs/charities	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	-
74.	XtreamCompute	XR/VR performance software	Early growth - 100k to 1M raised, or 3+ FTE	7000 - Computer System Design and Related Services	9139 - Amusement and Recreation Activities n.e.c.
75.	Zeitgeist	Provides professional communication training for leaders, with a focus on vocal presence.	Startup or Idea	8101 Technical and Vocational Education and Training	
76.	Zephyria	Robotics and automation equipment manufacturer specializing in harsh environment solutions including UAVs, drones, autonomous robots for mining, defence, and agriculture.	Small Biz - 3-20 FTE with innovation potential	2429 - Other Electronic Equipment Manufacturing n.e.c.	0159 - Other Crop Growing

NB: New companies joining this quarter are **bolded**. Companies sponsored to use the Coworking space are in 'italics.' Sponsoring relates to GRIFFIN Accelerator companies, winners of competitions, or companies that create special value for the ecosystem.

Coworking Network Connections

CBRIN builds friendly connections to other Coworking spaces in Canberra and nationally. Local Community Managers stay connected through the Canberra Region Coworking Network online, and with regular in person catch ups. CBRIN is a member of Flexible Workspace Australia (FWA) and uses the FWA network to connect to community builders nationally, and to access resources, training and FWA member discounts. Candace Rhind is the FWA Social Director for ACT.

CBRIN has reciprocal agreements with interstate coworking spaces/accelerators Spacecubed, Tank Stream Labs, and iAccelerate. Under the agreements, members from CBRIN can work at the other spaces, and vice versa. The teams also keep in contact to share news and discuss industry challenges.

This quarter Candace Rhind visited the team at iAccelerate in Wollongong to catch up on with the team and hear what they are working on.

Community Engagement and Communication

CBRIN uses Slack, a channel-based messaging platform, to communicate information and engage with residents of the Coworking space. The CBRIN Slack workspace has over 20 channels, including channels dedicated to Growth Programs, resources, and inspirational stories.

The CBRIN team regularly posts events and announcements, and members engage in discussions, share wins, receive help and advice, and socialise.

CBRIN emails a monthly newsletter to all coworkers, with a wrap up of the month just gone, news, and upcoming events. The coworking newsletter has 248 subscribers with an average open rate of 36.8%.

Coworker Engagement with other CBRIN Programs

Being in the Coworking Space gives members privileged access to the CBRIN team, leading to Founder Conversations, referrals, and connections. Coworkers are actively encouraged to take part in CBRIN's Growth Programs, networking events and collaborative events.

This quarter:

- The Growth Team had 18 Founder Conversations with coworkers
- 5 coworkers pitched at First Wednesday Connect events
- 6 coworkers attended Scale Up leaders sessions
- 2 coworkers participated in the SME Breakfast
- 2 coworkers participated in Idea to Impact
- 3 coworking companies met with the Indian Universities Delegation



Image: Collage of photos from CBRIN Coworking Events this quarter

Community Events

Community Events are a great way for coworkers to build relationships with other innovators in the space, and an important benefit of working in a coworking space. This quarter we focused on goal setting, getting some sunshine, and coming together for fun themed events (Harmony Day, Easter).

Date	Event	Participants
14 January 2026	Breakfast Club	9
20 January 2026	Community Morning Tea	28
5 February 2026	Coworking Drinks	14
11 February 2026	Breakfast Club	12
20 February 2026	Ice Cream Walk	3
24 February 2026	Community Morning Tea	20
5 March 2026	Coworking Drinks	6
11 March 2026	Breakfast Club	7
19 March 2026	Harmony Day Afternoon Tea	10
24 March 2026	Community Morning Tea and Easter Egg Hunt	25
Total:	10 Events	134



Image: photo of Coworking Drinks

Coworker Wins

The CBRIN Coworking residents are doing amazing things, and we celebrate and share their wins, big and small. We also celebrate when they connect in an exciting way.

Below are a selection of coworker wins:

- [Maddi Easterbrook from Future Swirl named in Canberra Times 30 under 30](#)
- MEOS Labs started making sales on their beta version and ran a collaborative workshop with AI Colab



Image: MEOS and AI COLAB workshop 19 February

CBRIN Coworking Feedback

Jeevan, Aryal Technologies (via LinkedIn)

We've joined the **Canberra Innovation Network** (CBRIN) community.

We're excited to be part of Canberra Innovation Network - a space built for founders, builders, and problem-solvers who are serious about innovation.

For us, innovation isn't just about new technology. It's about:

/ Solving real problems with practical, scalable solutions.

/ Building products that are human-centred, secure, and built to last.

/ Collaborating with like-minded businesses, startups, and mentors.

CBRIN provides an incredible ecosystem from collaborative workspaces and expert mentoring to programs that help ideas turn into impact.

Being part of this community allows us to push boundaries, move faster, and create smarter digital solutions for our clients and partners.

From Coworking Survey:

- "Thank you for all the ongoing support. It really makes a difference to our coworking experience."
- "Great CBRIN team, very responsive, professional and helpful!!"
- "Very happy with CBRIN and what it offers our team."
- "CBRIN is the centre of innovation and entrepreneurship in the ACT and the networking benefits of being a resident are enormous."
- "CBRIN is a welcoming, well-run coworking space with great facilities and a genuinely supportive community. It strikes a perfect balance between productivity and connection, making it easy to focus on work while feeling part of something bigger."
- "This may seem a strange one, but one of the best aspects I found when looking at other co-working areas is that CBRIN offers large desks that allow you to have multi-screens and lots of space to spread out papers and do work. Both things are important for me."
- "The Level 5 meeting rooms are excellent and will be fabulous once the new audio/viz is ready. I try to get there a few days a week as I find I'm much more productive at CBRin than home. I enjoy interacting with other folk when I'm there."

UNSW Canberra Launch on Northbourne

Launch on Northbourne is an initiative created by UNSW Canberra. The precinct is a proof-of-concept for a larger innovation precinct currently in development. As such, it provides three floors of collaborative workspace that brings together industry, government and academia to grow innovation and capability in the specific areas of defence and security.

CBRIN assists UNSW Canberra Launch with curating events throughout the year for the collaborators at Launch and creates opportunities for UNSW researchers to connect with the companies at Launch.

Key Achievements & Activities this Quarter

- 223 attendees participated in 7 Launch Community events this quarter
- There were 16 people with a UNSW Canberra or ADFA email address registered to attend CBRIN events.
- This quarter saw both increased presence and increased events being held at UNSW Canberra City, including new collaborators like Tactira, increased numbers of Lunch and Learns and a Launch Monthly Connect.

UNSW Launch Collaborators this Quarter:

Collaborator	Company Description
Ascent	Ascent have a multitude of capabilities including Management Consultancy, Program Management, Engineering & Technical Advice, Flight Test Planning, Quality Management, Acquisition & Sustainment and Authoring & Writing.
Cognitive Advantage	Cognitive Advantage is a digital technology business founded in late 2017 with a vision to harness emerging technologies in the Internet of Things, 5G telecommunications and artificial intelligence for the defence and security of Australia. Having foreseen the geopolitical tensions in our region the team decided to get a head-start on solving some big challenges for the Australian Defence Force.
DEWC Services	DEWC Services is an Australian owned and operated company focused on growing and developing critical sovereign capability in command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and electronic warfare
Elysium EPL	Elysium EPL is an Australian professional services firm. While based in Canberra and Sydney they work across all capital cities in Australia. Our consultants provide practical, long-term solutions for our clients in a broad range of areas including Strategic Procurement & Commercial Management, Organisational Design & Implementation, Transformation Engagement and Communication, Sensitive Services, Capability Development, Critical Asset & Infrastructure, Collaborative Working, Training and Education and Protective Security and Business Resilience.
Fifth Domain	Fifth Domain specialises in building, hosting and delivering flexible cyber training and education technologies to a diverse range of customers. Fifth Domain's technologies support educators and trainers and save them time and effort setting up learning

	environments. They also support students by providing stable and reliable virtualised real-world environments to test existing skills or learn new ones.
Infinity Avionics	Infinity Avionics is an Australian space avionics design and manufacturing company founded in 2020 as a UNSW Canberra Space spin-off. The company was founded to commercialise various intellectual property developed over the years at UNSW Canberra Space. Our reconfigurable FPGA SoC based flight computers are unique in the nano-satellite market in terms of their customisability and form factor.
Intersoft Services	Intersoft Services provides services and consultancy for Radar and other CNS systems and ATM worldwide. In addition, Intersoft Services also supports the integration and project business of Intersoft Electronics within the local market.
Kestra (formerly K3partners)	Kestra is a Canberra based software engineering company focussed on designing state of the art data analytics systems utilising Search Engines, Information Retrieval, Natural Language Processing and Machine Learning specifically for government customers.
Ocula	Ocula is a cabling specialist offering design, manufacturing and integration of fibre optic and copper communication and data solutions. Passionate about technology, we constantly strive to deliver a technological edge to our customers, with improved reliability and performance through ongoing innovation of cabling technology.
PentenAmio	PentenAmio is an Australian-based cyber technology company focused on innovation in secure mobility, applied AI (artificial intelligence) and tactical communications security. Founded in 2014, Penten is a multi-award-winning cyber security company. They are Launch on Northbourne's anchor tenant, occupying levels 1 and 2.
Point River Networks	Point River Networks provide consulting, recruiting, unified communications and networking.
Skykraft	Skykraft is an Australian space services company that specialises in the design, manufacture and operations of satellite constellations in the delivery of global services. Skykraft was established in 2017 as a spin off from space the capabilities incubator UNSW Canberra Space.
Space Machines Company	Space Machines Company are an aerospace company with a mission to provide in-space servicing and logistics. Their primary focus is on cleaning up space

	debris, servicing satellites in orbit and enhancing space sustainability. Their flagship technology is an orbital service vehicle that is designed to support and maintain satellites already in orbit.
Tactira	Tactira is an Australian sovereign technology company. With decades of experience in defence and government, Tactira excels in delivering AI enabled products, professional services and supports cutting edge research. We drive innovation to support national interests and promote Australian sovereign manufacturing, engineering and capability.
x-RD	x-RD specialise in secure software development, systems integration, cyber security, automation, and AI, primarily for Defence, Government, national security, and other high compliance sectors. They build and deliver secure platforms, AI enabled solutions, cloud environments, and DevSecOps capabilities designed for sensitive and mission critical environments.

NB: Collaborators in **Bold Italic** are not co-located full-time at the Launch on Northbourne offices.

Collaborator Wins

The Collaborators at Launch are doing amazing things, and we celebrate and share their wins, big and small. We also celebrate when they connect in an exciting way.

- Ascent moved into their new office space at UNSW Canberra City.
- Ascent engineer Bernard Smith-Roberts was made a fellow of Engineers Australia a recognition of outstanding contribution, leadership and impact in the engineering industry.
- Ascent sent a team to attend the Singaporean Airshow 2026 with support from AusTrade and Team Defence Australia.
- Cognitive Advantage attended and hosted a stall at the Association of Old Crows EW ANZ 2026 trade show showcasing their Edge Spark product range.
- DEWC attended the Association of Old Crows EW ANZ 2026 trade show participating in panels and ultimately being awarded the IW Business Award.
- DEWC participated in the 2026 Australian Defence Tech Hackathon working alongside other participants to prototype and test ideas shaped by operational needs.
- Elysium EPL's attended AOC Australia-New Zealand EW ANZ 2026 where their director, Anthony Allen, gave a strategic keynote address and participating in a panel on Australian EW perspectives.
- Elysium EPL's Gloria C had been named a finalist for the Ashurst Law Award in the Top 100 Future Leaders Awards

- Infinity Avionics's CEO Igor Dimitrijevic ran a Lunch & Learn explaining the challenges of meeting timing in FPGA source synchronous interfaces which can be used to ensure timing closure in high-speed digital designs.
- Intersoft Electronics took part in the very first BEDEX - Brussels European Defence Exhibition & Conference where they had a booth and signed several partnerships and contracts
- Intersoft Electronics partnered with EM&E and Indra to provide C-UAS capabilities to the Belgian market.
- Intersoft Electronics signed an agreement with the Ukrainian company CIT PROGRAM LLC, establishing a strategic partnership focused on the development and production of advanced technologies.
- PentenAmio received the 2026 Association of Old Crows EW ANZ information warfare business award
- PentenAmio hosted a stall at the Parliamentary Innovation showcase.
- Skykrafts VP of Business Development Iwan Morris attended the Civil Air Navigation Services Organization's Latin American and Caribbean conference in Panama to discuss how space-based aviation traffic management systems are enabling cost effective ways to modernise airspace safety systems.

Monthly Community Newsletter

Stats	January 2026	February 2026	March 2026
Open Rate	33.7%	27.1%	26.2%
Click-through Rate	8.4%	8.8%	4.7%

Community Events

Community Events are a great way for Collaborators to build relationships with other innovators at Launch and is an important benefit of working from the space. This quarter there were approximately 223 attendances at Launch community events.

	Events	Estimated Participants
January 2026	2	92
February 2026	1	31
March 2026	4	100

Events List:

- Viden: All Hands Coffee Van - Monday 12 January 2026 (50 Attendees)
- Welcome Back Ice cream Van - Thursday 29 January 2026 (42 Attendees)
- Launch Monthly Connect: Hosted by DEWC - Thursday 26 of February 2026 (31 Attendees)
- Launch Ladies Lunch - Thursday 12 March 2026 (12 Attendees)

- Drones in Modern Warfare Roundtable – Thursday 12 March 2026 (30 Attendees)
- Lunch and Learn: Hosted by Koposition – Wednesday 18 March 2026 (25 Attendees)
- Launch Monthly Connect: Hosted by Ascent – Thursday 26 March 2026 (35 Attendees)



Image: Photo collage of Launch Community events January – March 2026

Foundation Member & Partner Engagement

- Monthly CBRIN Extended Team Meeting held either online or in person with representatives from ANU, UC, UNSW, CIT, CSU, and AIE.
- This quarter – CBRIN team had fortnightly meetings with UNSW Canberra Launch team
- This quarter – CBRIN Executive Team met fortnightly with ACT Government team
- Petr Adamek met with CBRIN Board Members from ANU, UC, PWC, KWM, ACU, Optus, and AIE
- CBRIN team attended UNSW Launch Monthly Connect events
- First Wednesday Connect was held at CIT on 4 March 2026
- This quarter – The Prototyping Voucher Pilot Steering Committee met in February and March with representatives from CBRIN, ANU, CIT, UC, and UNSW Canberra
- This quarter – CBRIN attended multiple Not-for-Profit Innovation Forum ongoing work meetings with representatives from the ANU McCusker Institute and UC
- This quarter – 2026 ANU Techlauncher team working with Marketing and Events
- March – April 2026- CBRIN engaged student from AIE for CBRIN Marketing to work on a project
- 2 February 2026 – CBRIN met with ANU to discuss collaboration opportunities
- 3 February 2026 – CBRIN met with Navitas to discuss 2026 collaboration
- 4 February 2026 – CBRIN visited the Plant SynBio facilities at the ANU

- 5 February 2026 - CBRIN team visited key leaders and innovation champions at ACU
- 5 February 2026 - CBRIN met with ACU for a partnership and introduction session
- 6 February 2026 - CBRIN ran a workshop at the Australian Defence Tech Hackathon at UNSW Canberra
- 6 February 2026 - CBRIN met with ACT Government regarding the Prototyping Voucher PIP project
- 10 February 2026 - CBRIN met with Rachel Heng-Walters from UC for ACET Zero-Emissions Transport Hackathon venue coordination
- 19 February 2026 - CBRIN attended the ANU Cybernetics policy workshop with representatives from ACT Government and ANU
- 26 February 2026 - CBRIN met with ACT Government CED for an ACET catch-up
- 27 February 2026 - Petr Adámek and Meegan Fitzharris from UC met with the ACT Government Health Minister regarding NFP Innovation Forum
- 4 March 2026 - CBRIN met with CIT at CIT before First Wednesday Connect
- 5 March 2026 - CBRIN met with ACT Government CED regarding ACET
- 18 March 2026 - CBRIN met with ACT Government CED regarding the EIF survey
- 19 March 2026 - ACET Workshop 1 was held with attendees from ACT Government CED, UNSW Canberra, and ANU
- 19 March 2026 - CBRIN was a part of the Mill House Social Enterprise Grant panel
- 19 March 2026 - The CBRIN Advisory Committee met, with attendance from ANU and Mallesons representatives
- 24 March 2026 - Petr Adámek delivered a guest lecture at the ANU School of Cybernetics
- 24 March 2026 - CBRIN CEO presented guest lecture at ANU School of Cybernetics
- 25 March 2026 - CBRIN met with ANU for Solid Hackathon preparation
- 31 March 2026 - CBRIN attended the Veracity Innovation x ICC winter ideation session workshop at UC



Image: Foundation Member engagement - left CBRIN visit to ANU Plant SynBio labs, right: CBRIN on the panel for the ACT Social Enterprise Grants

Methodology

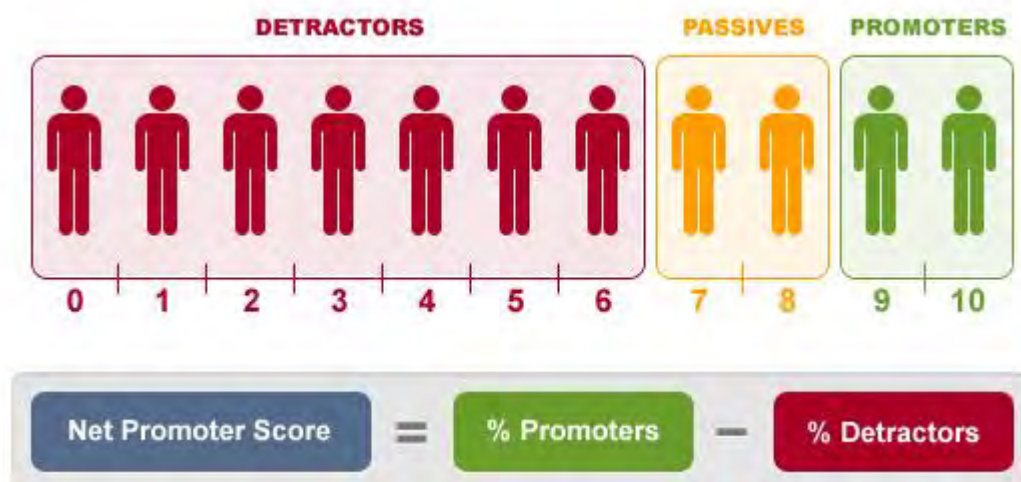
Participant Feedback

Wherever practical, the Canberra Innovation Network team seeks feedback from all program and event participants using a standard form. Questions include their rating of the event, what testimonial they would give and what aspect of the workshop or event they enjoyed the most. We report data and selected comments from responses received.

Net Promoter Score

For selected events CBRIN seeks to identify Net Promoter Score. The Net Promoter Score (NPS) method is used to measure participant satisfaction. NPS is a harsh measure, with scores ranging from -100% to +100%.

Each participant is asked how likely they are to recommend this to someone else on a scale of 1 to 10. The NPS is then calculated based on the percentage of promoters minus the percentage of detractors as shown in the graphic.



Registration and Attendance

Registration and attendance are measured for all programs and events that CBRIN runs. Event registration is taken through platforms like Eventbrite, while program registration (e.g., for Idea to Impact, hackathons) can sometimes be taken through Podio.

Attendance is reported based on a count made by CBRIN staff during the event or program. We take care to provide accurate numbers.

Project Schedule

This Project Schedule, when executed by the parties, forms an agreement between the **Australian Capital Territory** and **CBR Innovation Network Limited** with respect to a Project. This Project Schedule forms a separate agreement to the Funding Agreement between the parties relating to the CBR Innovation Network executed on 26 June 2023 (**Agreement**) but is subject to the same terms and conditions of the Agreement (as updated from time to time) which are incorporated by reference. Defined terms in the Agreement have the same meaning in this Project Schedule unless the contrary intention applies.

1. Project Summary

Project Name	Delivery of Innovation Connect
Commencement Date	1 July 2023
Completion Date	30 June 2025
Project Summary	
The Canberra Innovation Network (the Company) will administer the Innovation Connect (ICON) grant program in partnership with the Territory.	

2. Project Funds

The amount of Project Funds payable by the Territory under this Project is \$1,100,000 (exclusive of GST).

3. Responsibilities of the Parties

The Territory will have the following responsibilities under this Project:

- Provide payments in relation to the Project;
- Nominate a project coordinator to assist the Company on routine communication and inquiries about the delivery of the Project;
- Nominate a suitable Territory employee as a non-voting Chair to any evaluation panels held in relation to the Project; and
- Facilitate any information requests made by the Company in relation to the delivery of the Project, subject to any relevant government requirements.

The Company will have the following responsibilities under this Project:

- Undertake the project in terms clause 11.2 of the Agreement and the requirements of the Project Schedule including as set out at clauses 6 and 7.

4. Payments

Subject to terms of the Agreement and this Project Schedule, the Territory will pay the Project Funds to the Company in instalments as set out in the table below:

No.	Payment criteria / milestone	Due date	Instalment (GST exclusive)
1.	On execution of Project Schedule	15 July 2023	\$550,000
2.	Submission of 2023-24 annual report	15 July 2024	\$550,000

5. Invoicing requirement

The Project Funds are payable within 30 days of receipt of an Invoice by the Territory.

6. Project objectives

ICON is a proof-of-concept grant program that address market failure at the start-up and pre-seed stage. The Company will deliver the program against the existing grant guidelines dated April 2023. After each round the Company will determine if there are areas of the program that can be streamlined without modifying the program's overall target or objectives and update the guidelines accordingly.

The funding provided under this Project will be made available by the Company as grants to applications that meet the program's eligibility requirements and that the Independent Assessment Panel (as formed by the Company for the purposes of this Project) assesses as suitable against the program's assessment criteria.

7. Project outputs and outcomes

At the conclusion of each funding round the Company will provide a report that includes, but is not limited to:

- The total number of applications received;
- The total number of grants awarded;
- The total value of the grants awarded;
- A summary of each grant recipient and the activities the grant funding will be used for; and
- Any uncommitted grant funds.

On an annual basis, the Company will provide:

- An update on how it has utilised the funding allocated towards the program's administration;
- The results of its grant recipient surveys; and
- An annual report.

The Company will survey new recipients before they receive their grant. The information captured should include, but is not limited to:

- number of full-time equivalent staff in Canberra;
- annual revenue (\$);

- leveraged grant and private sector investment received by the recipient; and
- ANZSIC Industry classification.

By 30 April each year of the Project's term, the Company will conduct a survey of past recipients that records the satisfaction, growth, and success of funded businesses. The information captured should include, but is not limited to:

- number of full-time equivalent staff in Canberra;
- annual revenue (\$);
- ANZSIC Industry classification;
- leveraged grant and private sector investment received by the recipient;
- the level of satisfaction with the grant program, which will be measured by a Likert five-point rating scale:
 - 1 – very dissatisfied
 - 2 – somewhat dissatisfied
 - 3 – neither satisfied or dissatisfied
 - 4 – somewhat satisfied
 - 5 – very satisfied.
- the impact and outcomes the grant has had for the recipient; and
- areas where the grant can be improved.

As provided in clause 3, the Territory will facilitate any information requests made by the Company in relation to compliance with these reports, subject to any relevant government requirements.

8. Project budget

\$550,000 per annum to be delivered as grants with up to 10 per cent per annum available to support the administration of the program.

The parties agree that notwithstanding the specification of a budget, the Company is not in breach of this Project Schedule or the Agreement in the event it exceeds the budget. For clarity, as set out at clause 8.5 of the Agreement, nothing in this Project Schedule or the Agreement requires the Territory to provide additional funding should the Company exceed the budget.

9. Special conditions

The recipient is permitted to allocate up to 10 per cent of the allocated funding annually to support the administration of the program.

10. Intellectual Property Rights

Project Material vests on its creation in the Company.

11. Subcontractors

The Company may subcontract the performance of this Project to the following entities:

None as at signing of this agreement.

12. Assets

The parties agree that the following Assets will be utilised for the Project:

- List and contact details of previous grant recipients.
- CBRIN Offices and technology available at 1 Moore Street, Canberra

The Assets may be used for the purposes of the Project.

13. Termination notice period

The notice period for termination under clause 11.7 of the Agreement applies to this Project.

14. Counterparts

This Project Schedule may be executed in counterparts. All executed counterparts constitute one document.

EXECUTED as an agreement.

29 June 2023.

SIGNED for and on behalf of the
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY in
the presence of:

Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

Signature of witness

MIHIRI WEERARATHNA

Print name

SIGNED by
CBR INNOVATION NETWORK LIMITED
ACN 601 492 826 in accordance with
section 127 of the Corporations Act:

Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

Signature of Director / Secretary

SHARYN SMITH

Print name

Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

Signature of Territory delegate

Jenny Priest

Print name

Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

Signature of Director

PETR ADAMEK

Print name

Project Schedule

This Project Schedule, when executed by the parties, forms an agreement between the **Australian Capital Territory** and **CBR Innovation Network Limited** with respect to a Project. This Project Schedule forms a separate agreement to the Funding Agreement between the parties relating to the CBR Innovation Network executed on 26 June 2023 (**Agreement**) but is subject to the same terms and conditions to the Agreement (as updated from time to time) which are incorporated by reference. Defined terms in the Agreement have the same meaning in this Project Schedule unless the contrary intention applies.

1. Project Summary

Project Name	Delivery of Innovation Connect
Commencement Date	1 July 2025
Completion Date	30 June 2027
Project Summary	
The CBR Innovation Network Limited (the Company) will administer the Innovation Connect (ICON) grant program, in partnership with the Territory.	

2. Project Funds

The amount of Project Funds payable by the Territory under this Project is \$1,142,000 (exclusive of GST).

3. Responsibilities of the Parties

The Territory will have the following responsibilities under this Project:

- Provide payments in relation to the Project;
- Nominate a project coordinator to assist the Company on routine communication and inquiries about the delivery of the Project;
- Nominate a suitable Territory employee as a non-voting Chair to any evaluation panels held in relation to the Project; and
- Facilitate any information requests made by the Company in relation to the delivery of the Project, subject to any relevant government requirements.

The Company will have the following responsibilities under this Project:

- Undertake the project in terms clause 11.2 of the Agreement and the requirements of the Project Schedule as set out at clauses 6 and 7.

4. Payments

Subject to terms of the Agreement and this Project Schedule, the Territory will pay the Project Funds to the Company in instalments as set out in the table below:

No.	Payment criteria / milestone	Due date	Instalment (GST exclusive)
1.	On execution of Project Schedule	30 July 2025	\$564,000
2.	Submission of 2025-26 annual report	15 July 2026	\$578,000

5. Invoicing requirement

The Project Funds are payable within 30 days of receipt of an Invoice by the Territory.

6. Project objectives

ICON is a proof-of-concept grant program that address market failure at the start-up and pre-seed stage. The Company will deliver the program against the existing grant guidelines dated (reference by CBRIN). After each round the Company will determine if there are areas of the program that can be streamlined without modifying the program's overall target or objectives and update the guidelines accordingly, in consultation with the Territory.

The funding provided under this Project will be made available by the Company as grants to applications that meet the program's eligibility requirements and that the Independent Assessment Panel (as formed by the Company for the purposes of this Project) assesses as suitable against the program's assessment criteria.

7. Project outputs and outcomes

At the conclusion of each funding round the Company will provide a report that includes, but is not limited to:

- The total number of applications received;
- The total value of funding requested;
- The total number of grants awarded;
- The total value of the grants awarded;
- A summary of each grant recipient and the activities the grant funding will be used for; and
- Any uncommitted grant funds and acquittals during the year.

On an annual basis, the Company will provide:

- An update on how it has utilised the funding allocated towards the program's administration;
- The results of its grant recipient surveys; and
- An annual report; and

The Company will survey new recipients before they receive their grant. The information captured should include, but is not limited to:

- Australian Business Number (ABN) or Australian Company Number (ACN);
- estimated market value (\$) of the recipient;
- number of full-time equivalent staff;
- number of customers;
- average monthly revenue (\$); and

- ANZSIC Industry classification.

By 30 April each year of the Project's term, the Company will conduct a survey of past recipients that records the satisfaction, growth, and success of funded businesses. The information captured should include, but is not limited to:

- Australian Business Number (ABN) or Australian Company Number (ACN);
- estimated market value (\$) of the recipient;
- number of full-time equivalent staff;
- number of customers;
- average monthly revenue (\$);
- ANZSIC Industry classification;
- leveraged grant and private sector investment received by the recipient;
- the level of satisfaction with the grant program, which will be measured by a Likert five-point rating scale:
 - 1 – very dissatisfied
 - 2 – somewhat dissatisfied
 - 3 – neither satisfied or dissatisfied
 - 4 – somewhat satisfied
 - 5 – very satisfied.
- the impact and outcomes the grant has had for the recipient; and
- areas where the grant program can be improved.

8. Project budget

\$564,000 (excl GST) in 2025-26 and \$578,000 (excl GST) in 2026-27 to be delivered as grants with up to 10 per cent of the annual project budget available to support the administration of the program.

The parties agree that notwithstanding the specification of a budget, the Company is not in breach of this Project Schedule or the Agreement in the event it exceeds the budget. For clarity, as set out at clause 8.5 of the Agreement, nothing in this Project Schedule or the Agreement requires the Territory to provide additional funding should the Company exceed the budget.

9. Special conditions

The recipient is permitted to allocate up to 10 per cent of the allocated funding annually to support the administration of the program.

10. Intellectual Property Rights

Project material vests on its creation in the Company.

11. Subcontractors

The Company may subcontract the performance of this Project to the following entities:

None as at signing of this agreement.

12. Assets

The parties agree that the following Assets will be utilised for the Project:

- List and contact details of previous grant recipients
- CBRIN offices and technology available at 1 Moore Street, Canberra.

The Assets may be used for the purposes of the Project.

13. Termination notice period

The notice period for termination under clause 11.7 of the Agreement applies to this Project.

14. Counterparts

This Project Schedule may be executed in counterparts. All executed counterparts constitute one document.

EXECUTED as an agreement.

24 July 2025

SIGNED for and on behalf of the
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY in
the presence of:

Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

Signature of witness

Michelle Folton

Print name

) Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

)
)

Signature of Territory delegate

KAREN STENART-MOORE

Print name

SIGNED by
CBR INNOVATION NETWORK LIMITED
ACN 601 492 826 in accordance with
section 127 of the Corporations Act:

Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

Signature of Director / Secretary

SHARYN SMITH

Print name

)
)
)
)

Sch 2.2(a)(ii)

Signature of Director

PETR ADAMEK

Print name

Update report on the Innovation Connect Grant Program

for Chief Minister, Treasury, and Economic
Development Directorate, ACT Government

JULY 2024

Supported by



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Introduction

The Canberra Innovation Network (CBRIN) facilitates on behalf of the ACT Government the Innovation Connect (ICON) Grant program. The program supports the thriving startup culture in Canberra and empowers entrepreneurs to develop and grow their innovative ideas, providing matched funding between \$10,000 and \$30,000. CBRIN is required to provide an annual report to the ACT Government Economic Development Directorate as an update on the ICON Grant Program.

This report will include, but not be limited to:

- The total number of applications received for the current FY;
- The number of grants awarded;
- The total value of the grants awarded;
- A summary of each grant recipient and the activities the grant funding will be used for; and
- Any uncommitted grant funds.

Since the last update report in June 2023, there have been two ICON funding rounds.

Annual Update

An annual survey is sent to all previous grant recipients (excluding the current financial year). The survey tracks:

- Changes in the number of full time equivalent staff;
- Leveraged grant and private sector investment received;
- Figures relevant to sales growth; and
- Level of satisfaction with the program.

While best efforts are made to gather data on each recipient, figures are based on self-reported data from recipients. The survey closed 31 May 2024, with a total of 50 responses.

FY 2023/2024 Annual Survey – Recipient Performance (self-reported)

- Number of projects still operating: 48 out of 50 respondents
- Aggregate Annual Turnover: \$42 Million
- Aggregate Capital Raised Since ICON: \$139 Million
- Aggregate Company Canberra Based FTE (including founders and contractors): 151

ANZIC Code Breakdown:

Companies were asked to identify the ANZIC code for their business as part of the annual survey.

Of 49 projects:

- The chart below demonstrates a trend to information technology, with 12 projects under 7000 (Computer System Design and Related Services) and 7 projects under 5420 (Software Publishing).
- Projects related to IT = 18.
- Projects related to manufacturing = 11.
- Projects related to health & wellbeing = 7.
- Projects related to services = 5.

- Projects related to retail = 5.
- Projects related to education = 3.
- The chart demonstrates a spread across a range of 27 ANZSIC categorisations in total.

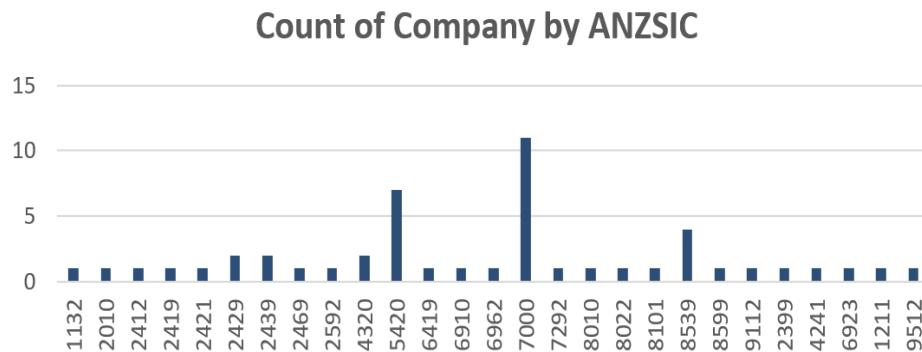


Figure 1: Breakdown of ANZSIC across projects

Program Satisfaction

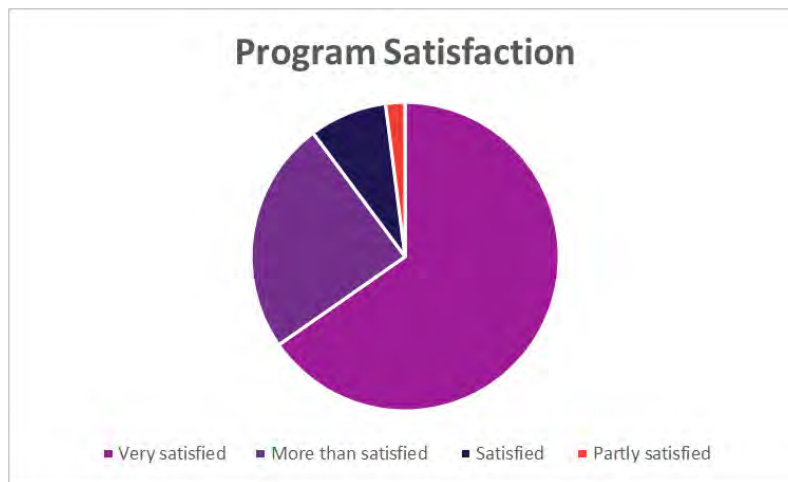
Recipients were asked ‘How satisfied are you with the ICON program?’ with the below scale:

1 - Not at all Satisfied, 2 - Partly Satisfied, 3 - Satisfied, 4 - More than Satisfied, 5 - Very Satisfied

Results from 49 responses for this question were:

- 5 very satisfied - 32
- 4 more than satisfied - 12
- 3 satisfied - 4
- 2 partly satisfied - 1¹
- 1 not at all satisfied - 0

The average satisfaction of the program was 4.5 – more than satisfied.



¹ Feedback from the respondent who answered 2 – Partly Satisfied: “It has helped us get the product ready for self-service use by potential customers, allowing us to continue to test and validate the product. The process to develop a working product from a concept to a point where we can more accurately get customer feedback required front-end development and payment gateway integration. ICON grant has been helpful for us to hire a contractor to do that work. The grant however is not sufficiently large to help us take the product to market at scale, and so our progress has been limited.”

Figure 2: Program Satisfaction

Testimonials:

"ICON grant provided us with the initial capital required to develop an MVP that then helped us secure initial pre-seed investment along with an Accelerating Commercialisation grant. We are now starting to build up our sales traction with particular success in the UK market." - **Nominal Systems, Christopher Capon**

"Receiving the ICON grant was key to making the Pupoon project viable. As a Canberra mum of three and a one-person start-up, it was a challenge to make it all happen. But the grant validated my idea, helped me overcome large financial hurdles and gave me the impetus to keep going." - **Rachel Hawes, Pupoon**

"This funding has enabled Sightdata to make crucial improvements to our product on both software and hardware fronts. Resulting in an increase to our adoption amongst existing clients and increased appeal to new clients. While also attracting collaboration and partnerships with other Australian companies." - **Jay Humble, Sightdata**

"We wanted to share the positive impact the grant has had on our project. Thanks to this opportunity, we were able to hire additional staff, which has led to significant progress in product development. Our customer base has also grown, and we are excited to continue expanding our reach." - **David Hinwood, Redirobots**

"ICON has been transformative for our engineering consultancy. It's empowered us to accelerate R&D efforts, innovate efficiently, and solve complex challenges for clients. With this support, we've expanded our team, invested in advanced technology, and fostered key collaborations... In essence, the grant has been a catalyst for our innovation journey, positioning us for sustained success in a competitive landscape." – **Andy Stodulka, ROTA Skip**

"The ICON grant greatly assisted in accelerating our product development to be ready for the beta launch. With the AI sector moving at a rapid pace it is critical for us to move as quickly as possible, and the ICON grant was instrumental to us achieving our goals for the launch." - **Matt Lee, Berrijam**

"This has been a powerful stepping stone to implementing innovative AI solutions into the protect and educate sides of our business." – **Shane Britten, Social Protect**

"ICON has been instrumental in both the initial development and subsequent expansion of Bushfire.io, particularly in launching our services in the United States and Canada." – **Tristan Morris, Disaster Science**

"ICON allowed us to start a new business stream and to deepen our relationship with our Singapore partners, QE Labs. We also used the ICON grant as a springboard to a REIF grant." – **Michelle McCann, PV Labs**

“ICON allowed us to accelerate development of our prototype and complete initial feasibility assessment. This then allowed us to raise an Angel round.” – Chaturica Athukorala, Aurabox

Innovation Connect Alumni Highlights - Over \$24 Million raised by ICON alumni in 23/24:

🔗 Auditum All (ICON Round April 2021) – Finalist in the Accelerator for Enterprising Women Kickstarter 2023.

💰 GoTerra (ICON Round 2015-16) – Raised \$10 Million bridging round, launched Sydney site, winner of Best Sustainability Startup for insect food waste system.

💰 Haast (ICON Round April 2023) – Raised \$1.2 Million pre-seed led by Aura Ventures in August 2023 and winner of the Zurich Innovation Championship.

💰 Miiroko (ICON Round April 2021) – Received \$400,000 through the Boosting Female Founders Grant to fund establishment and expansion into Japan.

💰 Nomad Atomics (ICON Round April 2021) - Raised \$12 Million led by Blackbird Ventures to build miniaturised quantum sensors.

🔗 PPB Technology (ICON Round Oct 2018) - CYBERTONGUE® Wins Category at the Victorian Premier's Design Awards Ceremony.

💰 Smartlox Digital Lockout (ICON Round Oct 2022) – Closed \$600,000 seed round in December 2023.



Photo credit: The Australian, AUGUST 24, 2023. Aura Ventures founder and partner Eric Chan, Haast co-founders Jason Watling, Kunal Vankadara and Liam King, and Aura Ventures investment associate Annie Liao.

Current Program

Basic ICON Accounting

FY 2023/2024:

- Money Committed: \$514,000.00
- Number of Projects Supported: 18
- Number of ICON Meetings: 225
- Number of ICON Expressions of Interest (EOIs) submitted²: 149

Innovation Connect April 2024 Round



Image: Photo of the ICON Grant Panel, 16 May 2024

- CBRIN met 154 unique entrepreneurs to discuss ICON. This includes 146 Intro Meetings and one online Info session.
- The April 2024 funding round received 79 eligible Expressions of Interest (EOI).
- 6 panel members were engaged to provide feedback on the EOIs and to shortlist a maximum of 20 projects for the Pitch Day. Panel members were:
 - o Anne Moore (Mentor & Investor)
 - o David Ireland (CSIRO)
 - o Harold Dimpel (Founder, Mentor & Investor)
 - o Professor Michael Cardew-Hall (Australian National University (ANU), Mentor & Investor)
 - o Sylvia Tulloch (Mentor & Investor)
 - o Rosanne Brand (Mentor & Investor)

EOIs were randomly assigned to 4 of the panel members to review each submission.

² Total EOIs submitted for two ICON rounds, and one Investor Led round.

- 20 projects were shortlisted to pitch to the Independent Panel.
- 4 panel members formed the Independent Panel for the Pitch Day:
 - David Ireland
 - Professor Michael Cardew-Hall
 - Sylvia Tulloch
 - Rosanne Brand
- CBRIN facilitated pitch-practice support sessions for the ICON shortlist businesses between being shortlisted and the ICON pitch day.
- The day was co-chaired by Glen Hassett, ACT Government and Petr Adamek, CBRIN.
- Decisions from the ICON panel were made on the Pitch Day – 16th of May.
- 9 projects were selected to receive between \$10k - \$30k funding where a total amount of \$250,000 was deployed. 5 projects have a female founder/c-suite level executive.

April 2024 ICON Grant Recipients:

Company	Project description	Commitment
Braddon Endo 8531 Dental Services	Braddon Endo has developed a dental innovation to provide a more accurate and reliable diagnosis as soon as possible. Funded Activities: - Prototyping tool - Design for larger scale manufacturing - IP	\$20,000
GC Precision Developments Pty Ltd 2299 Firearm manufacturing	Test and evaluation of modular rifle system for local and export markets. Funded Activities: - Prototyping tool - Design for larger scale manufacturing	\$30,000

Company	Project description	Commitment
Mileva Security Labs 7000 Computer System Design and Related Services	Mileva Security Labs offers advisory and training on AI and AI Security, and this grant will support our first product - a SaaS solution that helps organisations conform to AI standards and regulations and manage their AI risk. Funded Activities: - Development of user requirements - Software development	\$30,000
Momentum Health Technologies 2412 Medical and Surgical Equipment Manufacturing	Printed Symmetry will improve outcomes for children with Plagiocephaly and Brachycephaly through a safe, breathable and easy to use 3D printed helmet therapy solution. Funded Activities: - Design refinements - 3D printing prototype - Online ordering platform	\$30,000
NU42 7000 Computer System Design and Related Services	NU42 is a totally unique A.I. tool, which dramatically increase efficiency across a wide range of personal and business tasks. Funded Activities: - Software development - Pilot with early users - Go to Market Strategy	\$30,000
Oak Systems 2394 Aircraft Manufacturing and Repair Services	Oak Systems is developing software to support high volume to protect high-cost crewed systems. Funded Activities: - Develop the mission planning and flight control software - Flight test demonstration	\$30,000
Ohna 7000 Computer System Design and Related Services	Ohna is using technology to build climate-resilient food supply chains to connect local farmers with consumers. Funded Activities: - Continuing software development in collaboration with interested food orgs to generalise the software to various packing processes - Scaling food delivery with pilot use case	\$30,000

Company	Project description	Commitment
Splitconj 1912 Rigid and Semi-Rigid Polymer Product Manufacturing	Splitconj is a product line and complimentary tool which will easily resolve a clearly identified conduit design flaw in the electrical and associated sectors. Funded Activities: - Intellectual Property for the design - Further industrial design for the tool - Manufacturing of the prototype	\$20,000
Sprout Materials 182 - Basic Polymer Manufacturing	Patented chemistry developing a circular and compostable plastic alternative. Funded Activities: - Hard plastic prototype - Testing with first customer	\$30,000
Total		\$250,000

Innovation Connect October 2023 Round

- 4 experts committed to be panellists for this round. This commitment involved: evaluations, shortlisting, consideration of pitches, decision on successful projects.
 - Anna Pino (Lighthouse Innovations)
 - Karen Schilling (Canberra Cyber Hub)
 - Keats Nealms (Australian National University)
 - Michele Troni (Significant Capital Ventures)
- CBRIN held 79 Intro Meetings with entrepreneurs to discuss ICON and hosted 1 Info Session.
- The October 2023 funding round received 70 eligible Expressions of Interest.
- 20 projects were shortlisted to pitch to the Independent Panel, one project withdrew prior to the pitch day.
- CBRIN facilitated pitch-practice support sessions for the ICON shortlist businesses between being shortlisted and the ICON pitch day.
- Decisions from the ICON panel were made on the Pitch Day – 26th of October 2023. The day was co-chaired by Glen Hassett, ACT Government and Petr Adamek, CBRIN.
- 9 projects were selected to receive between \$10k - \$30k funding where a total amount of \$264,000 was deployed. 4 of these projects have female founders.

October 2023 ICON Grant Recipients:

Company	Project description	Commitment
Dragonfly Thinking 5420 Software Publishing	Dragonfly Thinking revolutionises problem-solving for policy and business leaders by introducing innovative AI-driven visual tools and techniques, enabling a more flexible and agile approach to complex problem analysis and intervention. Funded Activities: - Software and enterprise platform development	\$30,000
Endless Australia 2592 Toy, Sporting and Recreational Product Manufacturing	Endless Australia pioneers the creation of premium, eco-friendly skateboard decks using 100% recycled and recyclable plastic bottle lids, catering to environmentally conscious skateboarders and collectors seeking sustainable, Australian-made alternatives in the adrenaline sports industry. Funded Activities: - Digital design for solution - Moulding for prototype - Testing decks for usability and durability	\$30,000

Company	Project description	Commitment
HOSKING Bikes	Hosking Bikes is a pioneering bike brand aiming to make cycling more accessible, offering affordable and customizable bike options while advocating for inclusivity and greater representation of women in the cycling industry. Funded Activities: - Design for carbon and alloy models - Prototype for carbon and alloy models	\$30,000
Mobile shower commodes 2399 Other Transport Equipment Manufacturing	Mobile Shower Commodes offers a range of accessible commodes designed to prevent falls and enable safe showering for people with disabilities and the elderly, providing a cost-effective solution for home care and hospital discharge needs globally. Funded Activities: - Development of a working prototype - Field testing	\$30,000
SocialProtect	SocialProtect is a platform that automatically removes abusive comments from users' social media posts, providing real-time protection against online abuse for individuals and organizations, with a focus on enhancing the online experience and mental well-being of users. Funded Activities: - Implement machine learning into the language model - Extend the key word capability in the solution	\$30,000
TaperMate 8599 Other Health Care Services	TaperMate is a mobile app that empowers users worldwide to safely taper off medications causing withdrawal symptoms by providing evidence-based information, customizable tapering plans, symptom tracking, and access to expert advice and peer support. Funded Activities: - Software development - Legal advice	\$26,000
Traceably 5420 Software Publishing	Traceably enables digital teams to seamlessly collaborate and design human centric digital solutions and services. Funded Activities: - Digital security audit and security enhancements to support enterprise customers - Payment integration	\$30,000

Company	Project description	Commitment
Waste Check Systems 2599 Manufacturing	WasteCheck offers an innovative IoT bulk bin weighing system for the commercial and industrial property sector, providing real-time waste weight data to enhance sustainability tracking and reduce excess waste charges. Funded Activities: - Improved battery performance with an IOT developer - Developing the back-end integration of the electronic keypad data with the bin weighing data - Develop a volume and a Infrared sensor for the bin - Initial steps with NMI Accreditation - IP Patent Lawyers	\$28,000
Yarn Speech 5420 Software Publishing	Yarn is a digital health platform addressing long speech pathology wait times, offering fun, evidence-based programs for children with speech and language difficulties, empowering parents to take action. Funded Activities: - Commencement of MVP tech build	\$30,000
Total		\$264,000

Other Updates

Grant Acquittals

The following projects submitted acquittals during the 23/24FY:

Company	ICON Round	Highlights
Archetype (now Evolve Simulations) AI interfacing toolset to produce VR where the user plays the main character and interacts with virtual characters.	April 2023	Product development, team growth and early sales.
Berrijam No-code AI platform for business insights and predictions.	April 2023	Co-founders brought onto the project, team growth to 6 FTE and completed the GRIFFIN Accelerator.

Company	ICON Round	Highlights
Easy Read Toolbox To increase use of easy to understand, accessible communication for people with disabilities / low literacy via The Easy Read Toolbox.	April 2022	Official launch of the product, repeat sales and team growth to 5 part-time staff, 4 regular contractors and over 25 occasional contractors.
Haast Brand and legal compliance software.	April 2023	Doubled staff, including key hires in development, successfully closed a funding round of \$1.2M and gained new enterprise clients.
HUUM Bio Reclamation Transportable, 'smart', safe, odourless, and fully automatic composting machine.	April 2023	Participating in CRC partnership between and industry and Melbourne University and participating in an ARC grant funded research hub with Monash University focusing on carbon reduction
Penwell Penwell is a smart software that helps teachers to identify students' writing patterns, errors and opportunities for improvements.	October 2022	Participated in the GRIFFIN Accelerator program and ANU HEX Singapore program
Pupoon A clever storage capsule that attaches seamlessly to a leash to help dog owners clean up after their dogs in public places without the hassle.	October 2022	Product now in market, e-commerce site set up.
PV Labs Developing machine learning to automate solar panel electroluminescence (EL) image analysis.	October 2021	Received a follow-on grant under the ACT Government's Renewable Energy Innovation Fund (REIF) and the PV 4.0 project was successfully launched.
Redirobots A robotic solution to assist textile recyclers in sorting and handling waste streams.	April 2022	Brought on two co-founders, made traction with first customer
ROTA Skip ROTA SKIP is a patented material handling unit trailer mounted design for convenient, and easy to load and unload.	October 2022	Successful first version, commencing capital raise.

Company	ICON Round	Highlights
SightData Computer vision and machine learning system for construction sites with real time notifications of risks assist in managing safety.	April 2023	New partnership, increased client satisfaction with existing customers.
Social Protect A platform that automatically removes abusive comments from users' social media posts, providing real-time protection against online abuse for individuals and organizations, with a focus on enhancing the online experience and mental well-being of users.	October 2023	Secured a range of contracts and started capital raise process.
Traceably Software platform to enable large digital design projects to deliver seamless customer experiences.	October 2023	Platform ready to launch beta, in discussions with large enterprise for early use.
Viortec A smart surgical clamp aiming to have a major impact on the precision and efficiency of robotic knee replacement surgery.	October 2021	Completed the GRIFIFN Accelerator, secured clinical trial with Canberra Hospital and hired six new technical staff.
Your Season Online platform which organises clothing into seasonal colour analysis palettes.	April 2023	Completed the GRIFIFN Accelerator, user friendly website with multiple affiliates.

Future Rounds

The next Innovation Connect round will close for applications on the 10th October 2024.

Financials

As per the Agreement, funding of \$550,000 per annum to be delivered as grants with up to 10 per cent per annum available to support the administration of the program.

Returned Funds

The following projects returned grant funds:

Company	ICON Round	Rationale	Amount
FC Tekkers	October 2021	Founder unable to secure further funding to initiate project.	\$15,000

Company	ICON Round	Rationale	Amount
Zalia Flow	N/A – Cyber Accelerator 2021	Return of unexpended funds.	\$13,500

Uncommitted Grant Funds

A total of \$15,100 (GST exclusive) in grant funds remain uncommitted, to be allocated in future ICON Grant rounds.

Update report on the Innovation Connect Grant Program

for Chief Minister, Treasury, and Economic
Development Directorate, ACT Government

JULY 2025

Supported by



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Introduction

The Canberra Innovation Network (CBRIN) facilitates on behalf of the ACT Government the Innovation Connect (ICON) Grant program. The program supports the thriving startup culture in Canberra and empowers entrepreneurs to develop and grow their innovative ideas, providing matched funding between \$10,000 and \$30,000. CBRIN is required to provide an annual report to the ACT Government Economic Development Directorate as an update on the ICON Grant Program.

This report will include, but not be limited to:

- The total number of applications received for the current FY.
- The number of grants awarded.
- The total value of the grants awarded.
- A summary of each grant recipient and the activities the grant funding will be used for.
- Any uncommitted grant funds.

Since the last update report in June 2024, there have been two ICON funding rounds.

Annual Update

An annual survey is sent to all previous grant recipients (excluding the current financial year). The survey tracks:

- Changes in the number of full-time equivalent staff.
- Leveraged grant and private sector investment received.
- Figures relevant to sales growth.
- Level of satisfaction with the program.

While best efforts are made to gather data on each recipient, figures are based on self-reported data from recipients. The survey closed 4 July 2025, with a total of 45 responses.

Overall Program Accounting since 2008 (Proof of Technology, ICON, Investor-led and BIG):

- Money Committed to Date: \$9,173,638
- Number of Projects Supported: 344

Since CBRIN was Appointed to Facilitate the Program (September 2018 – June 2025, includes Investor Led and Boosting Innovation Grant Streams)

- Money Committed to Date: \$3,775,000.00
- Number of Projects Supported: 139

FY 2024/2025 Annual Survey – Recipient Performance (self-reported)

- Number of business still trading: 43 out of 45 respondents
- Aggregate Annual Turnover: \$18,425,332
- Aggregate Capital Raised Since ICON: \$26,490,289
- Aggregate Company Canberra Based FTE (including founders and contractors): 123.85

ANZIC Code Breakdown:

Companies were asked to identify the ANZIC code for their business as part of the annual survey.

Of 45 projects:

- The chart below demonstrates a trend to information technology, with 9 projects under 7000 (Computer System Design and Related Services) and 6 projects under 5420 (Software Publishing).
- Projects related to IT & Tech = 17.
- Projects related to Manufacturing = 13.
- Projects related to Health & Wellness = 6.
- Projects related to Professional Services = 6.
- Projects related to Retail & Trade = 2.
- Projects related to Education = 1.
- The chart demonstrates a spread across a range of 24 ANZSIC categorisations in total.

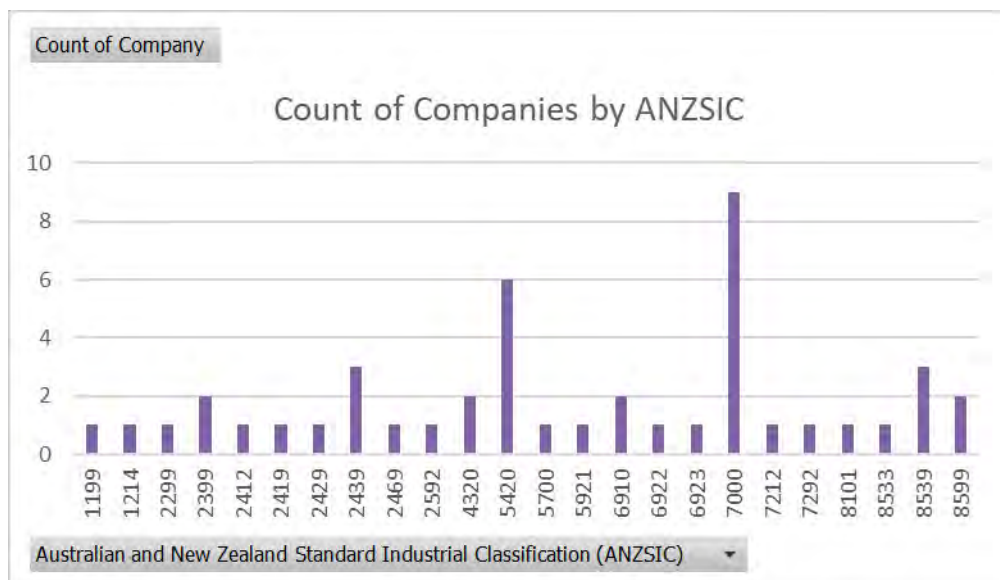


Figure 1: Breakdown of ANZSIC across projects

Program Satisfaction

Recipients were asked 'How satisfied are you with the ICON program?' with the below scale:

1 - Not at all Satisfied, 2 - Partly Satisfied, 3 - Satisfied, 4 - More than Satisfied, 5 - Very Satisfied

Results from 44 responses for this question were:

- 5 very satisfied - 37
- 4 more than satisfied - 6
- 3 satisfied - 2
- 2 partly satisfied - 0
- 1 not at all satisfied - 0

The average satisfaction of the program was 4.78 – more than satisfied, with 82% of respondents at 5 – very satisfied.



Figure 2: Program Satisfaction

Testimonials:

"Besides enabling the R&D of a core product line, the ICON Grant helped me to establish legitimacy and create further opportunities in the business realm. I've been able to leverage the relationships established by the ICON program into further investment into my company." – **Maddi Easterbrook, FutureSwirl**

"The icon money helped bring our MVP to let us test and scale our business from there." – **Alan Tse, Altina Drinks**

"The application process was run smoothly and it was really helpful to be able to do a practice pitch beforehand. The fact that our vision for scale landed with the panel was validating. The grant enabled us to do software development that has positioned us for scale, that we were otherwise not funded to do." – **Tina McIntosh, BOOST Health Labs**

"It helped us go from concept to Minimum Marketable Product in the early days. So it was critical in getting us past that initial hurdle of the first 3 to 6 months in business. Following that, there has

been no ongoing benefit. Would we still be here without it? Probably. Would it have been a lot harder to get that \$30k elsewhere? Absolutely.” – Brent Wijnberg, Smartlox

“The Innovation Connection grant supported our business at a key early stage of business development. The opportunity helped us to build networks and connections and promote our business.” – Caitlin Byrt, Membrane Transport Engineers (MTE)

“It has been an enormous help, it has allowed us to pay for the development of critical areas of our AI/ML product, which simply would not have been possible without the grant. This in turn has allowed us to produce the base product as per the grant and get a head-start on other related products as well.” – David Hohnke, Nuvento

“The ICON Grant was the very first funding we received, and it played a crucial role in helping us establish the foundation of our business — including building the Colour Quiz. While the funding itself was incredibly helpful, the ICON Grant offered us much more than just financial support. Through it, we connected with CBRIN, who has become a tremendous supporter — providing us with workspace, introducing us to mentors and investors, offering access to accelerator programs, and much more.” – Claire Saito, Miiroko

“Without it, we would not have launched. We are hopefully now on the verge of some larger contracts as interest increases.” – Mick Fritschy, Rosella Street

“Being recipients of the ICON grant contributed to keeping our business alive financially and supporting us to get our MVP to market. As founders using emerging technology our development costs are high, the grant enabled us to ensure security and privacy levels were reached, alongside enabling us to demo the MVP at industry events, which in turn meant we had early customers.” – Careen Redman, Humaneer

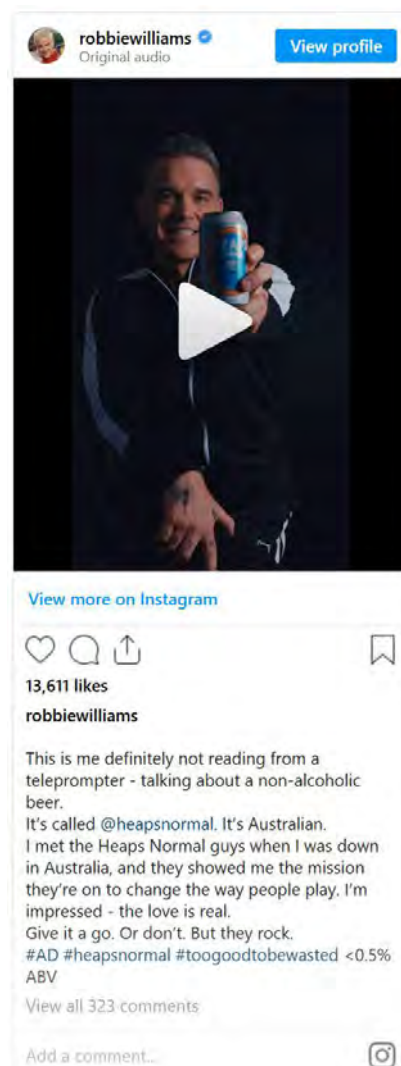
“It allowed us to fund the first batch of manufacturing our early products which in turn bootstrapped the business.” – Igor Dimitrijevic, Infinity Avionics

“The Innovation Connect grant was instrumental in helping Dragonfly build our first MVP and accelerate early prototyping. It played a crucial role in validating customer needs, shaping our direction, and building early momentum.” – Anthea Roberts, Dragonfly Thinking

“What we are attempting to do wouldn't be possible without the Innovation Connect grant.” – Jack Lindsay, Hosking Bikes

Innovation Connect Alumni Highlights -

- 💰 **Decision Revolution (ICON Round May 2023)** – Acquired by Parbery
- 💰 **Foremind (ICON Round April 2020)** – Raised \$1.5 Million
- 🚀 **Goterra (ICON Round FY2015-16)** – New waste facility opened in Sydney
- 💰 **Haast (ICON Round May 2023)** – Raised \$6 Million round led by Airtree
- 🚀 **Heaps Normal (ICON Round April 2020)** – Entering UK market, received public endorsement by notable rockstar Robbie Williams



Robbie Williams endorsing Heaps Normal on Official Instagram Account

- 🚀 **Membrane Transport Engineers (MTE) (ICON Round Nov 2021)** – Showcasing at Cicada's Tech23 Event
- 🏆 **Nominal (ICON Round Sept 2019)** – CEO, Christopher Capon is a finalist for Executive of the Year in Space Connect's Australian Space Awards 2025

🪙 **SignOnSite (ICON Round Oct 2020)** – Acquired by competitor 1Breadcrumb (financial terms not disclosed)

🚀 **Sprout Materials (ICON Round May 2024)** – Showcasing at Cicada's Tech23 Event

🚀 **Viortec (ICON Round Apr 2021)** – Accepted into the National CSIRO ON Accelerate Program

🚀 **Yarn (ICON Round Oct 2023)** – Accepted into the AMP Tomorrow Makers IGNITE Program



Left: Joel Anderson, CEO of Foremind.

Right: Haast co-founders (L-R): Jason Watling, Kunal Vankadara, Liam King