Innovation Central Canberra

A collaboration led by cisco

Foundation Partners

UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA | cisco

Innovation Central Canberra

Winter Intensive Program

Program Summary

The Winter Intensive Program is a flagship initiative for ICC. In 2025 nine discrete projects were delivered by a combination of industry partners, students and academics. The basic criteria for a project is simple: it needs to solve a real world industry problem and involve digital technology. The showcase event was a chance for students – and their industry partners – to demonstrate what had been achieved in the nine weeks whether that be a proof of concept, working prototype or framework.

The variety of projects was matched by the diversity of industry partners. Students talked about the benefits they got from participation including exposure to how industry makes decisions, collaborating at speed and applying critical thinking in a time-constrained environment. For industry the benefits include exposure to new talent, cost effective validation of potential solutions and access to specialist skills they might not have in house.

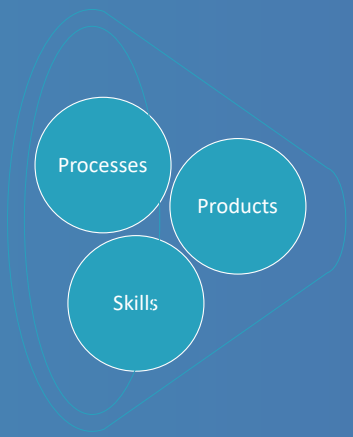
The latest cohort of students brings the total number of projects implemented by ICC to 25, and the total number of students involved to 70. In 2025 ICC worked with five new industry partners and is grateful for the active participation and the 30 industry representatives that participated in the showcase.

Erin Stacey
Director, ICC

What is ICC?

ICC supports organisations to develop practical digital solutions to real business challenges. This could include developing new processes, delivery models or products.

Industry get to build prototypes and solutions, not just talk about possibilities, using a bank of talented staff, students and industry collaborators including Cisco.



Industry problems	ICC services	Value to industry
	Early-stage ideation	New ideas and insights Quick answers on feasibility and potential
	Practical Advice	Access to technology expertise that can't be afforded in-house Clear plan for developing and testing solutions
	Rapid prototyping	Cost-effective innovation Faster validation of solutions De-risked production issues
	Scaling and adoption support	De-risked testing of solutions Faster, more reliable solution rollouts

Underpinned by:

1 A proven innovation methodology

Digitise › Analyse › Optimise › Automate

2 A bank of students and researchers

Students · Researchers · Innovation specialists · Industry collaborators

3 Affordable access to specialist technologies and facilities

Collaboration devices · Networking · Internet of Things (IoT) · Fabrication

The ICC Student Project Methodology

ICC applies a well-established methodology to its internship projects, refined over several years through feedback from both industry partners and participating students.

Each project is tightly aligned to real-world industry needs, provides students with structured support, and incorporates regular touchpoints for validation and improvement.

The process:

Project Identification and Selection

- Projects sourced through ICC's industry network
- Shortlisted based on alignment with real-world problems and program objectives

Scope Definition and Planning

- Project charter created
- Milestones and deliverables refined
- Timelines constructed
- Special considerations identified (e.g. NDAs, equipment)

Student Recruitment and Resourcing

- Required skills /knowledge /domains identified
- Students interviewed from multiple disciplines
- Candidates proposed to industry partners for approval
- Students selected and onboarded

Supervision and Mentoring

- Academic supervisor assigned (based on speciality and interests)
- Cisco (or other) technical expert assigned for mentoring and technical advice

Orientation and Industry Briefing

- Student orientation covering success factors, expectations, communication protocols, and project management fundamentals
- Industry partner kick-off briefing with background, context, and project importance

Project Execution and Oversight

- Weekly check-ins (virtual/in-person) with feedback loops
- Mid-project validation by industry partners to refine direction

Showcase and Handover

- Development of final pitch for ICC showcase
- Presentation and final report delivered to industry partner, highlighting rationale, approach, and outcomes

Underpinned by formal and informal skill/professional development – technical and non-technical

Winter ICC Projects

TCO Tool for Next-Generation Hybrid Work and Learning

The move to hybrid work was accelerated during COVID for educational purposes. Major investments went into research and development to make these hybrid work tools much more capable. This included major investments into AI (auto transcription and translation, noise cancellation, speaker tracking) and energy efficiency to drive costs down the experience up.

In collaboration with Cisco, students at ICC developed an interactive online tool to compare the total cost of ownership (TCO) and return on investment (ROI) of AV versus Next-Generation Hybrid technology.

The tool will be used by university CIOs and Cisco Account Managers alike to:

- **Calculate True Costs:** Provides CIOs with clear financial metrics that justify the move away from traditional AV to hybrid.
- **Build business cases based on total cost of ownership:** Provides evidence to support internal funding requests and executive decision-making.
- **Model scenarios:** Allows universities to simulate different implementation scenarios, helping them understand potential costs and benefits over time.

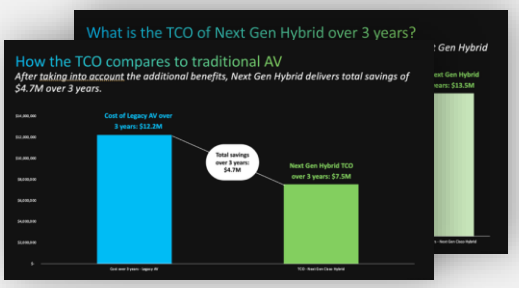
ICC Students

Manile Srun &

Delase Xevi

Partner

cisco



Private 5G for Critical Port Infrastructure

While logistics companies face rising pressure to deliver secure and resilient supply chains, many existing wireless networks struggle with coverage, reliability, security, and scalability.

In collaboration with Cisco, this project validated a private 5G and Wi-Fi dual connectivity architecture for critical port infrastructure.

The solution addresses operational reliability, aligns with the Security of Critical Infrastructure Act, and creates a pathway for digital twins and automation in logistics.

ICC Student

Sandhy Waer

Partner

cisco

Software Version Insights for Network Security

Security teams often spend hours manually checking vulnerabilities across fragmented systems, risking delays and missed threats.

In partnership with Algosec, students developed an automated tool that integrates with the Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures database and Cisco APIs.

The solution delivers real-time vulnerability scanning, lifecycle checks, and a unified compliance dashboard – reducing hours of manual work to minutes.

ICC Students

Myeisha Foo & Norbu Tobgyel

Partner

algosec

Winter ICC Projects

Preventing Drone-Related Cybersecurity Risks

Drones can bypass fences and alarms to infiltrate or disrupt critical infrastructure. Yet awareness among operators remains low and regulatory frameworks lag behind the pace of technology.

Partnering with DroneShield, ICC students examined drone-related cybersecurity risks and identified significant gaps:

- Limited operator awareness and response readiness
- Increasing reliance on drones creating new vulnerabilities

Students produced recommendations on how drone-related cybersecurity risks can be diminished. This included operator education, advanced threat modelling, collaborative simulation exercises, and stronger government–industry partnerships.

ICC Students

Simone Chitsinde &
Andrew Giumelli

Partner

DRONESHIELD

Enabling Acoustic Privacy

As microphone-enabled devices proliferate, organisations face new privacy risks from eavesdropping.

In collaboration with Merewyn Partners, students tested adaptive speech masking technology.

This project led to a prototype that proved more effective than white gaussian noise in safeguarding private conversations against eavesdropping.

ICC Students

Anubhav Karki &
Ezekiel Graetz

Partner

Merewyn Partners

Improving Government Efficiency through Automation

Government departments face the ongoing challenge of managing updates and maintaining version control across large systems. Manual processes consume valuable resources and create the risk of duplication or error.

This project focused on creating streamlined version control processes that could save significant time, human resources, and financial cost.

The work identified opportunities for automation across public sector operations and provided a foundation for more advanced applications of digital transformation within government services.

ICC Student

Ezekiel Graetz

Partner

ACT Government

Winter ICC Projects

Optimising Student Communications at Scale

For universities, texts and emails are the primary way to reach students. However, current processes rely heavily on manual inputs, creating inefficiencies and inconsistency.

In partnership with Student Connect, this project focused on optimising communication workflows through automation. Two major outcomes were delivered:

- Achieving 50% reduction in manual inputs by connecting Callista to automated processes.
- Developing a change management framework to ensure adoption across the institution.

The project demonstrated not just technical capability but also the importance of bridging technology and business operations. Students gained valuable experience in teamwork, leadership, and the translation of automation into day-to-day practice.

ICC Student

Isaac Chan

Partner

UNIVERSITY OF CANBERRA

Prioritising High-Risk Security Threats

Many cybersecurity teams are overwhelmed with threat alerts and advisories, and awareness of critical threats relevant to their organisation are sometimes buried like "a needle in a haystack".

ICC students, working with the NIIN and the Cisco Talos Awareness, Education, Guidance, and Intelligence Sharing (AEGIS) program, developed a Cyber Threat Intelligence Tool that both identifies and parses AEGIS intelligence advisories; summarising key insights into a dashboard view for the cybersecurity team and suggesting contextual actions that reduce risk and improve cyber resilience across university systems.

The solution was tested in Microsoft environments to deliver a fully automated workflow. The tool has potential to improve how organisations - particularly universities - are alerted to and address cyber threats.

ICC Students

Jayan Siyani & Urvi Ray

Partner

NIIN
National Industry Innovation Network

Since its launch, ICC has had:

25

Projects implemented

70

Students involved

Partner Spotlight

ICC is proud to partner with Industry Capability Network

ICN connects local businesses to major projects and supply chains, ensuring capable suppliers are visible to project owners and procurement decisions strengthen the Australian economy. Working across government, defence, and industry, ICN helps companies showcase their capabilities, access new opportunities, and meet high compliance standards.

Partnership with ICC

Over the past 12 months, ICC and ICN have delivered four student-led innovation projects focused on:

- Applying natural language models to industry challenges
- Designing and training tailored AI models
- Developing interactive data dashboards

These projects provided ICN with proof-of-concept solutions and gave students experience on live, high-impact industry problems.

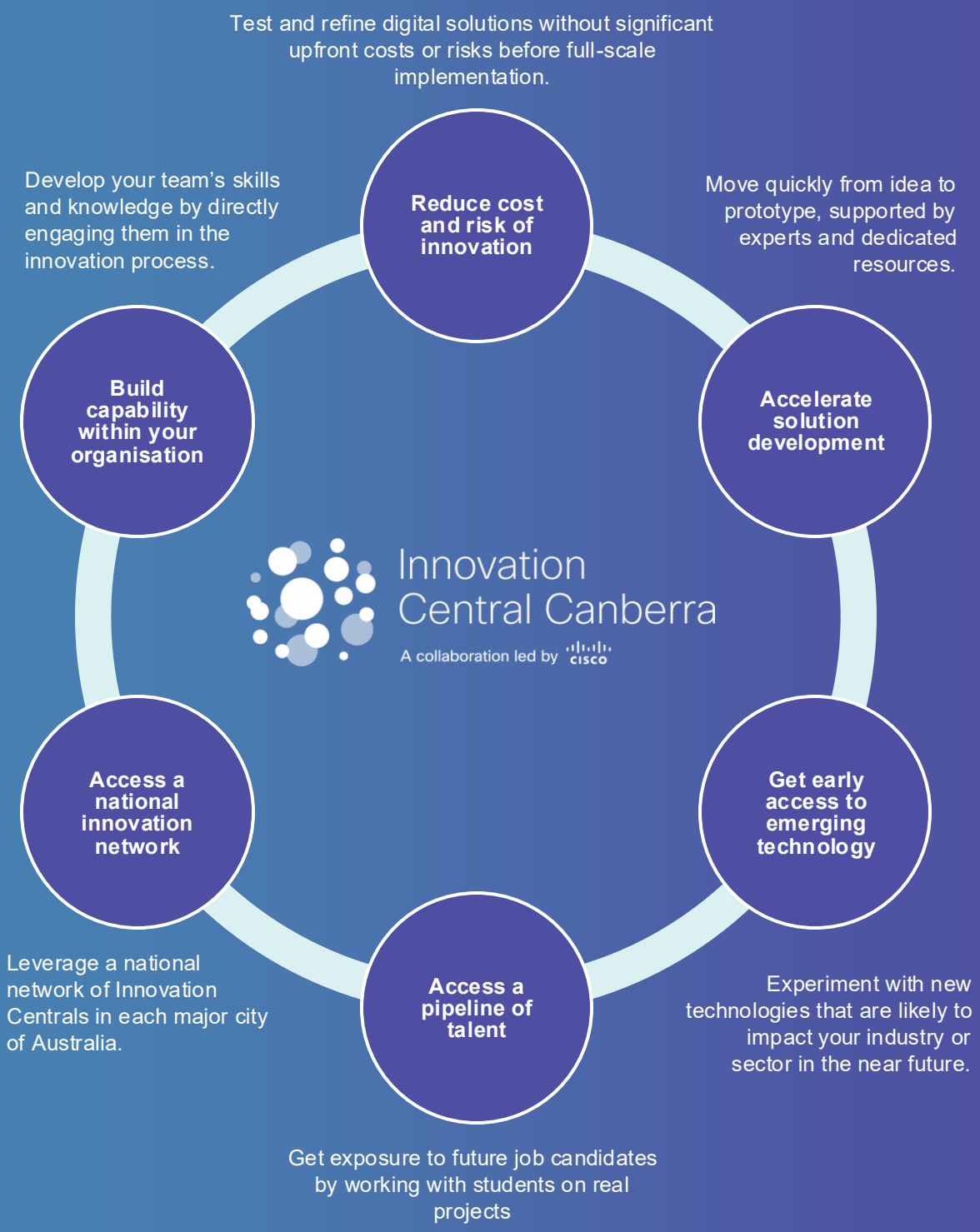
Beyond projects

The partnership also advances skills development, including:

- Tools and validation for Defence Industry Security Program (DISP) accreditation
- Support for meeting the Australian Cyber Security Centre's Essential Eight controls
- Guidance for SMEs entering defence and critical infrastructure supply chains

Together, ICC and ICN are helping build the technology, skills, and capabilities that strengthen Australia's industrial resilience.

Why work with ICC



How to find out more

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