


Innovation Central Canberra Summer Showcase 2026



Innovation
Central Canberra

A collaboration led by  CISCO

FOUNDATION PARTNERS



UNIVERSITY OF
CANBERRA

PART OF THE

NIIN National
Industry
Innovation
Network

WHAT IS ICC?

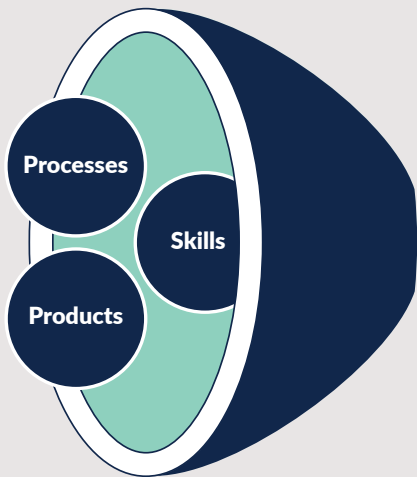
ICC helps organisations develop practical digital solutions to real business challenges. This could include developing new processes, delivery models or products.

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.

Scaling & Adoption Support

- ✓ Cost-effective innovation.
- ✓ Faster validation of solutions.
- ✓ De-risked production issue.

Rapid Prototyping

- ✓ 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



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



INDUSTRY PROJECTS

Private 5G Testbed Validation

Wireless Network Communications

The Private 5G Innovation Lab at Innovation Central Canberra serves as a national testbed advancing next-generation private 5G capabilities for critical industries. Partnering with BAI, the team configured the network, developed a testing methodology, and executed rigorous functional and performance evaluations to validate connectivity, throughput, latency, and reliability. This work provided low-risk validation and assurance through controlled testbed experimentation, delivering clear evidence of operational suitability to inform decisions for future deployments in high-demand environments.



Walk & Give

Artificial Intelligence

Walk & Give is an innovative customer-experience initiative developed by students from Innovation Central Canberra during the Cisco Live MasterTech Hackathon, responding to the challenge: "How might Coles make the shopper experience more engaging and personalised?". Grounded in insights that customers often shop on autopilot, find loyalty programs overly transactional, and are increasingly cautious about technology, the project reimagines how in-store engagement and value can be delivered. The solution transforms the Coles app into an active companion that rewards shoppers simply for the valuable time they spend in-store. Customers earn points for walking, discovering products through guided quests, and can choose to redeem or donate their rewards, turning everyday shopping into an opportunity for impact. Walk & Give enhances loyalty by aligning rewards with real behaviour, increases in-store engagement through playful and personalised interactions. The outcome is a compelling, low-barrier mechanism for Coles to elevate customer experience, enrich brand trust, and cultivate deeper community connection through a modern, digitally-augmented retail journey.

The logo for Coles, featuring the word "coles" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font on a dark blue background.

NIIN Digital Transformation

Web Design & Software Development

Launched in 2020, the NIIN rapidly grew into one of Australia's largest innovation networks, driving digital transformation and large-scale industry and societal impact. This project established a standalone NIIN website to give the expanding network an independent digital presence and strengthen its growing brand and impact. The team designed a scalable web architecture, and developed a high-fidelity prototype informed by NIIN's existing brand and content needs. This work enabled NIIN to enhance visibility, improve stakeholder engagement, and prepare a functional beta prototype to support its long-term digital strategy and future growth.



Securing the State: Whitepaper

Cyber Security Policy

The white paper *Securing the Nation: Accelerating Government Cybersecurity in an Age of Digital Disruption* underscores Australia's urgent need to strengthen cyber resilience amid escalating digital disruption. Developed through a collaborative partnership between NIIN, Cisco, and the University of Canberra, the research identifies systemic risks including End-of-Life technologies, inconsistent policy implementation, and uneven digital maturity across jurisdictions. It highlights the essential shift from static, point-in-time assessments to real-time visibility and risk-based decision-making.

Through research-driven analysis, the paper delivers actionable, grounded recommendations to uplift government systems and prepare for emerging threats, including those accelerated by AI and quantum technologies, delivering clear evidence of operational suitability to inform decisions for future deployments in high-demand environments.



INDUSTRY PROJECTS

Cyber Readiness Alignment Tool

Cyber Security & Software Development

Previous ICC research produced a web-based tool that compares the U.S. CMMC against Australian DISC cybersecurity standards for defence industries, highlighting compliance gaps to support a quick and accessible assessment. In partnership with the Industry Capability Network, the team gathered and analysed industry feedback to identify Small to Medium Enterprise (SME) challenges around such standards and guide the tool's future development. The mapping methodology was refined to support additional standards, including the Essential Eight, and to enable continuous updates as compliance requirements inevitably evolve. This work has attracted interest from multiple industries, creating a naturally holistic approach to simplifying cyber compliance and unlocking new market opportunities for Australian SMEs, delivering clear evidence of operational suitability to inform decisions for future deployments in high-demand environments.



Acoustic Privacy Protection: Phase 2

System Engineering & Software Development

As microphone-enabled devices proliferate, organisations face new privacy risks from eavesdropping. Building on earlier research, the team developed and validated a software architecture capable of meeting real-world constraints, from realtime processing to scalable storage requirements. This project produced a functional prototype and accompanying requirements specification, establishing a minimal viable product that accelerates experimentation and positions the technology for future productisation.

Merewyn Partners

Accelerating AI Adoption in Australia NIIN AI Adoption Moonshot

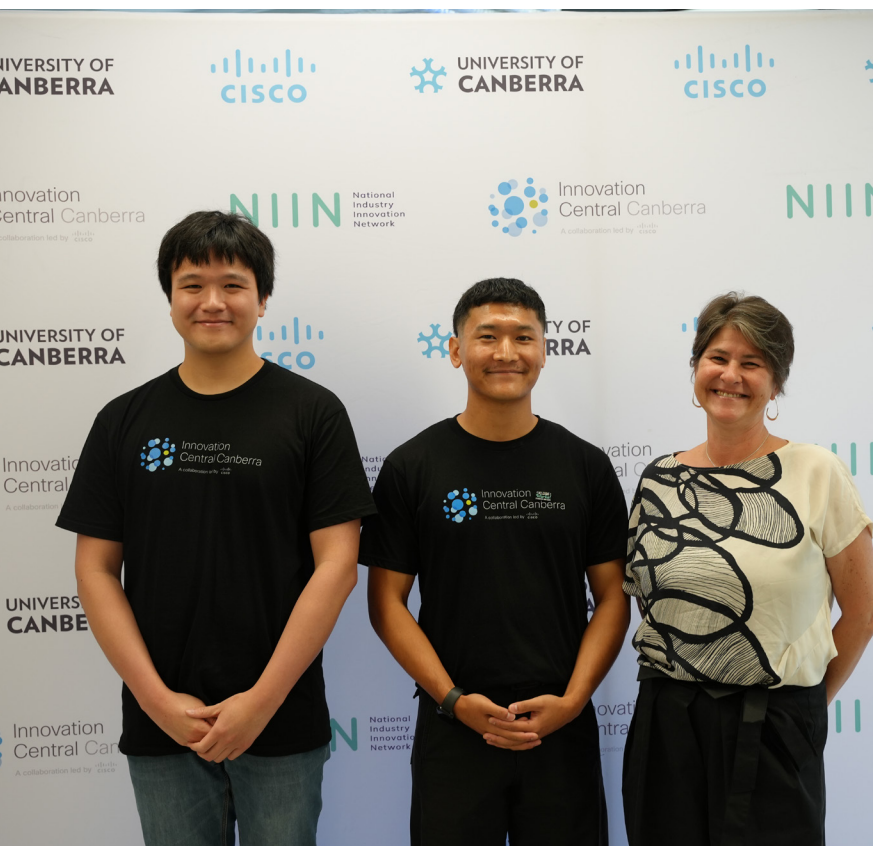
Skills and Infrastructure Research

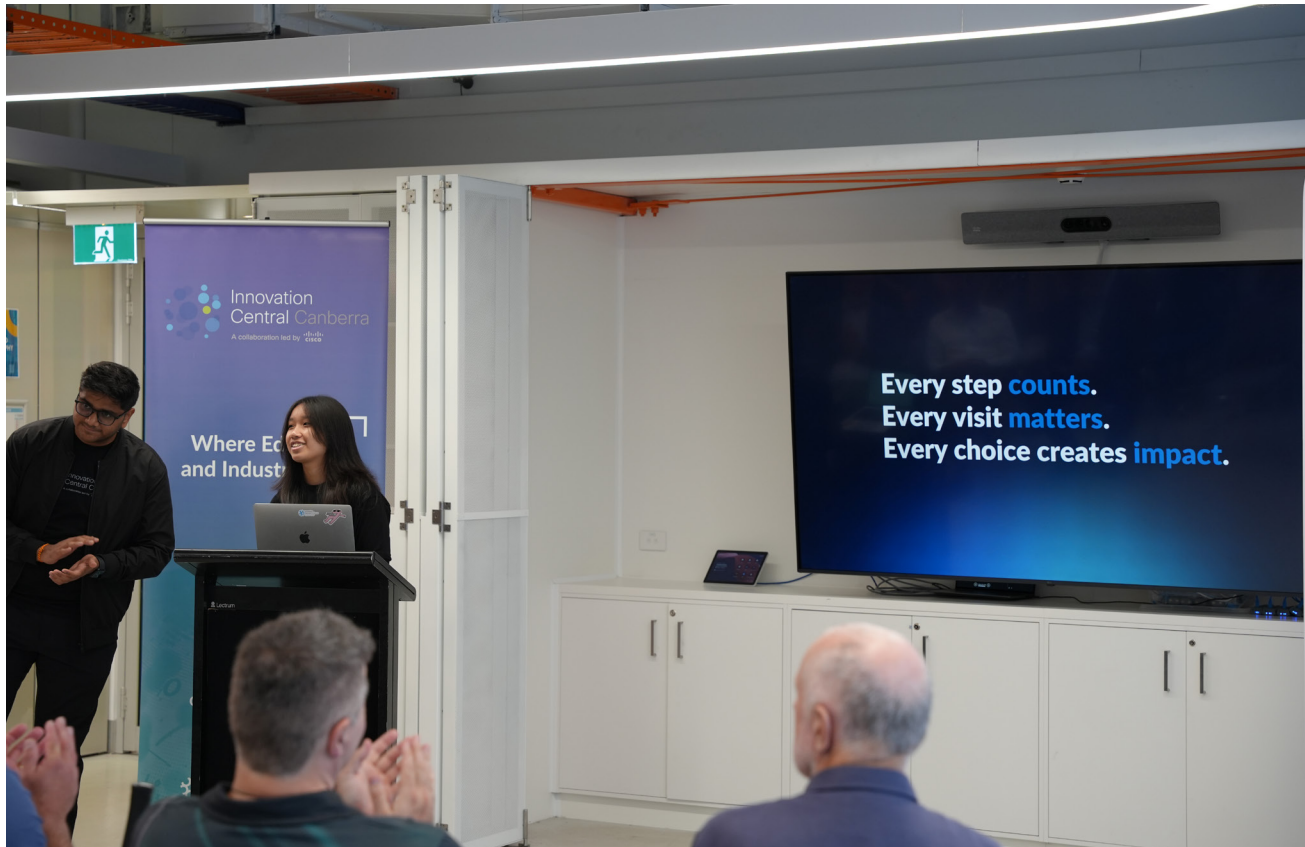
The Accelerating AI Adoption in Australia initiative outlines the nation's urgent need to shift from fragmented experimentation to coordinated, scaled AI implementation, as AI capabilities rapidly mature and reshape productivity and competitiveness. It highlights that although Australia shows improving readiness, adoption remains uneven and risk-averse, constrained by infrastructure gaps, limited skills pathways, and a lack of safe, trusted environments for testing and scaling AI solutions. Developed in response to the National AI Plan, the initiative emphasises three national priorities - building smart infrastructure, backing Australian AI capability, and attracting investment - to position the country as a trusted and sovereign AI leader. Through flagship programs such as the NIIN AI Skills Challenge and the proposed NIIN Sovereign AI Cloud, it provides a coordinated, practical model to build applied capability, shared infrastructure, and responsible governance frameworks across industry, universities, and government. Together, these efforts form the foundation of the NIIN AI Adoption Moonshot, a national response designed to break down adoption barriers, strengthen sovereign capability, and accelerate real-world AI impact at scale.

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SHOWCASE







PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

ICC and Merewyn Partners: A Strategic Partnership Driving

Innovation

Over the past 18 months, Innovation Central Canberra (ICC) and Merewyn Partners have built a strong and values aligned partnership focused on accelerating innovation while contributing meaningfully to the education of Australia's current and future workforce. We are pleased to confirm our shared intent to continue this engagement through 2026, building on the momentum and outcomes achieved to date.

The partnership with Merewyn Partners was established during the 2024 Summer Intensive Program, where ICC Student Associates developed an AI powered prototype demonstrating the benefits of using artificial intelligence to automate hidden camera detection. Building on this initial success, a further two projects focused on the Ultrasonic Microphone Masking system have since been completed, supporting Merewyn's innovation objectives and

validating concepts at speed.

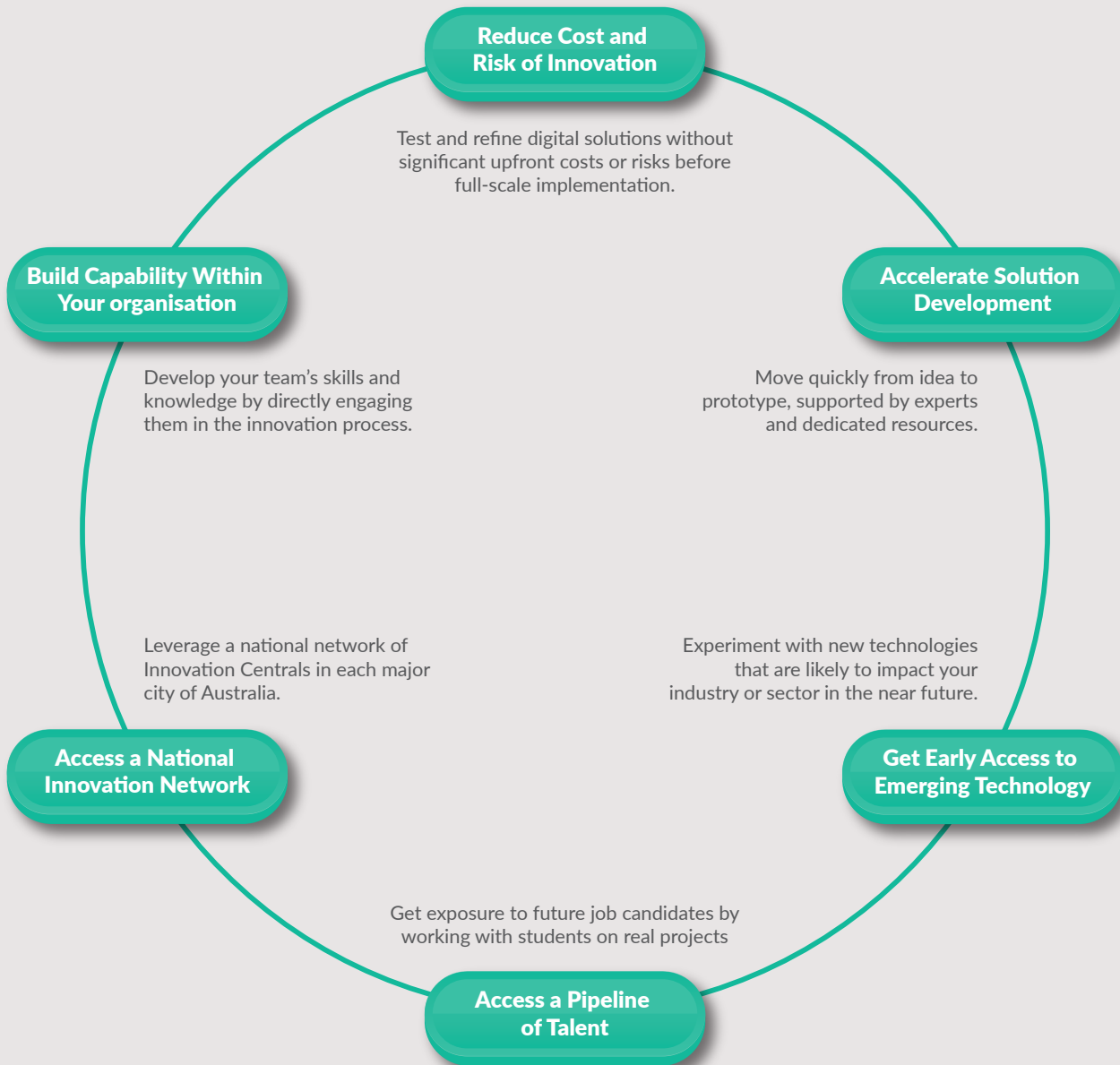
“Our collaboration with Innovation Central Canberra has played a critical role in accelerating the development, testing, and refinement of our innovations.”

A key strength of the partnership is our shared commitment to education and workforce development. Merewyn Partners' deep involvement in education initiatives aligns strongly with ICC's mission to prepare students for industry through hands on, real world problem solving.

Grounded in open and honest communication,

Merewyn Partners

WHY WORK WITH ICC?



How to find out more



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