

Innovation Central Canberra Winter Showcase 2026



Innovation
Central Canberra

A collaboration led by  CISCO

FOUNDATION PARTNERS



PART OF THE

NIIN National
Industry
Innovation
Network

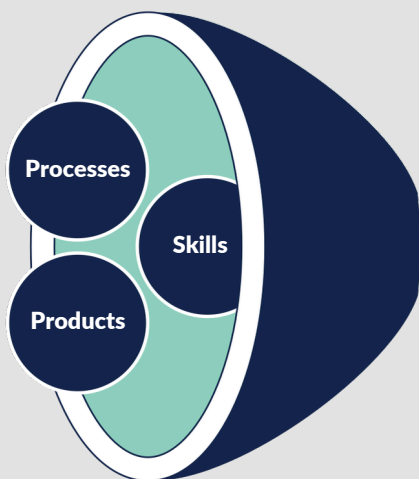
WHAT IS ICC?

ICC helps organisations rapidly develop and test practical digital solutions to real business challenges, from new processes and delivery models to innovative products.

Rather than just exploring ideas, businesses work alongside expert staff, students and industry partners, including Cisco, to build and validate prototypes. This approach reduces the cost, risk and uncertainty of innovation, enabling organisations to test solutions before committing to full-scale implementation.

Through ICC's national network, businesses also gain access to emerging technologies, research expertise and innovation capabilities from across Australia.

Industry Problems



ICC Services

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



2 A bank of students and researchers



3 Affordable access to specialist technologies and facilities



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



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

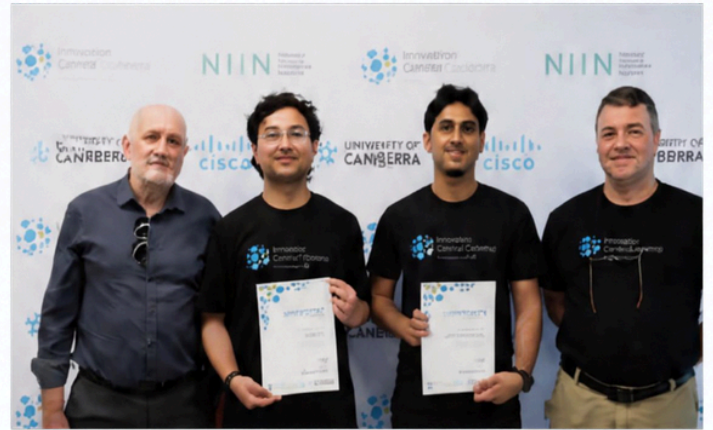


INDUSTRY PROJECTS

Speech Masking Optimisation

Machine Learning

As microphone-enabled devices proliferate across modern workplaces, organisations face growing privacy risks from inadvertent or malicious eavesdropping. To address the varying effectiveness of traditional methods, this project applied machine learning to analyse and optimise speech-masking configurations, identifying the critical factors that influence performance and privacy protection. The initiative successfully developed a functional tool that intelligently masks and configures audio to help safeguard sensitive information. This work provides a scalable, data-driven approach to enhancing acoustic security in high-risk environments.



Merewyn Partners

File Transfer Across Air-Gapped Environments

Software Development in Cybersecurity

Organizations operating air-gapped networks face significant security risks when relying on manual or unmanaged methods to transfer files into isolated environments. To eliminate these risks, the team replaced manual handlings with advanced one-way data security tools along with automated scanning systems that check files for viruses and known threats using trusted security databases. This architecture carefully checks every transfer, successfully validating the secure process and ensuring files are fully trusted before any movement occurs.

The resulting solution establishes a robust, low-risk framework for keeping systems safe during secure cross-domain operations.



Assignment Extension Workflow Automation

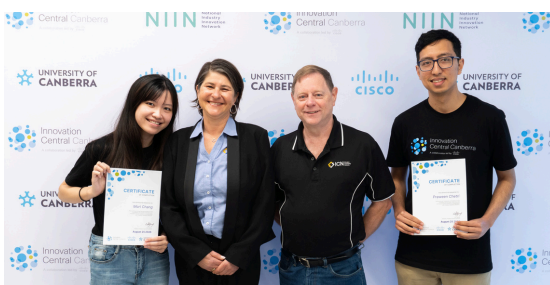
Digitisation and Automation Improvement

Assignment extensions can increase staff administrative workload and cause unnecessary uncertainty for students. By analysing current institutional practices, reviewing policy requirements, and researching potential solutions, the team designed an ideal-state automated workflow with minimal manual interventions. The project successfully delivered a comprehensive business case for a streamlined digital workflow, alleviating academic workload by roughly 6 minutes per request while improving the student experience through clear status visibility. This work paves the way for a fair, transparent and efficient extension process across the university.



New Zealand Market Entry Strategy

Market Research



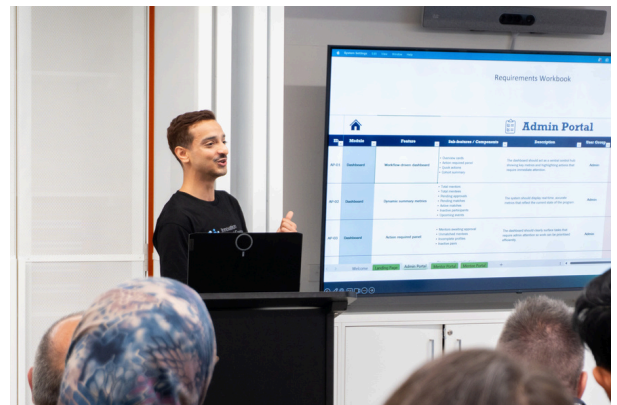
With Industry Capability Network's (ICN) presence in the New Zealand market having declined over time, there was a pressing need to understand the local ecosystem and identify content gaps in its current Gateway platform. Rather than forcing an old model, the project pivoted to a tailored approach better suited to the local landscape. The project analysed the New Zealand defence and supplier landscape to deliver a strategic business case and phased growth roadmap designed to drive market re-entry and strengthen local visibility. The outcome included actionable research insights, a targeted marketing strategy, conversion pathways to support existing local SMEs and value-add initiatives like webinars, upskilling and networking bridges to the Australian market.

INDUSTRY PROJECTS

Mentoring Platform Pilot 1.0

Business and Market Analysis

UC Thrive's mentoring program previously relied on a partially manual system, resulting in a fragmented user experience and significant administrative overhead. To address these bottlenecks, the team analysed the existing approach, gathered comprehensive stakeholder requirements, created interactive prototypes and evaluated alternative mentoring solutions. This foundational phase delivered 152 future-state requirements, four interactive prototypes and a rigorous comparison of three potential platforms, directly supporting the transition into the next phase of the pilot.



Mentoring Platform Pilot 2.0

Pilot Testing

Building on the initial evaluation of potential mentoring solutions, the team explored how a selected platform could effectively support diverse mentoring streams while meeting the distinct needs of students, alumni and staff. Working closely with both internal stakeholders and external industry partners, the project designed tailored pilot workflows, comprehensive testing scenarios, and structured feedback surveys across three mentoring streams. This work generated valuable insights into user needs, platform capabilities and implementation considerations, informing future decision-making and the continued development of the university's mentoring program.



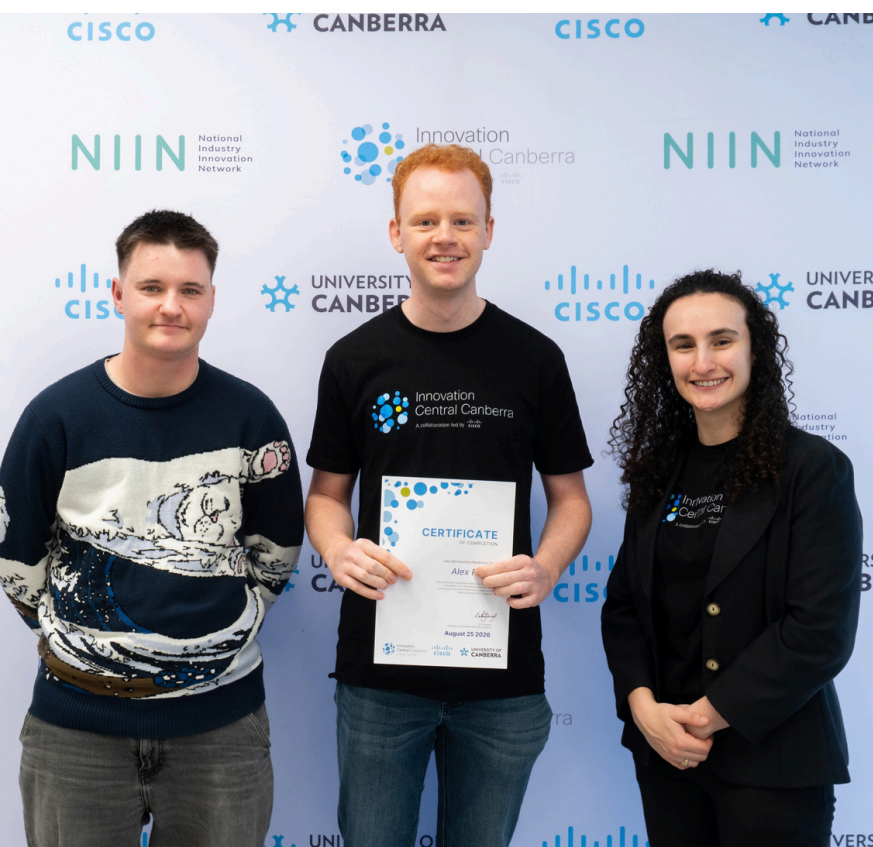
NIIN AI Skills Research and Framework Design

The NIIN AI Skills Initiative was established in collaboration with the Future Skills Organisation (FSO) to address a key national challenge: despite significant investment in AI education and workforce development, there was no consistent way to measure, compare or understand AI capability across universities and industry. Drawing on internationally recognised frameworks including SFIA and DigComp, the project developed a shared AI Skills Framework, capability taxonomy, assessment methodology and an accompanying digital assessment tool that enables institutions to map learning outcomes, benchmark AI skills and identify capability gaps. As Australia works towards developing a workforce with advanced AI capabilities, including the national ambition to support hundreds of thousands of workers with AI skills, the initiative provides a practical mechanism for universities and industry to better align education, workforce planning and future skills development through evidence-based insights and shared standards.

NIIN National Industry
Innovation Network



SHOWCASE





icentralau.com.au/canberra/

Email

innovationcentral@canberra.edu.au

Address

Innovation Central Canberra
Level 1, Building 27
University Of Canberra
BRUCE ACT 2617

NIIN
National Industry
Innovation Network