

Expansion of the Innovation and Enterprise Fellowship Programme (IFP) **创新与企业人才培育计划**

What is it?

The Innovation and Enterprise (I&E) Fellowship Programme (IFP) aims to grow the pool of deep tech talent in Singapore to drive innovation in our economy, support the commercialisation of deep tech research, and bring nascent technologies to market.

The 12 to 18-month programme trains mid-career professionals to develop technology commercialisation skills through on-the-job training and attachments at appointed IFP partners. Through the programme, Fellows will gain exposure to technology commercialisation activities and develop relevant skills in areas such as productisation, intellectual property (IP) management, technology screening, financial modelling, negotiation and technical sales. Fellows will receive a monthly stipend for the duration of their training with the partner. The amount of the stipend varies across IFP partners and is also dependent on the Fellows' existing qualifications.

Since the pilot launch in 2020, more than 90 Fellows have been onboarded. 85% of whom secured placements at tech-related companies or took on tech and commercialisation-related roles after they had completed the programme.

How is it expanded?

Currently, eligible Fellows undergo training with over 50 private sector partners appointed by Enterprise Singapore and SGInnovate, including deep-tech startups, accelerators and incubators.

The IFP will be expanded to increase the capacity to take on more Fellows. The IFP will now include public sector partners, namely three National I&E Platforms hosted by the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) – the Diagnostics Development Hub (DxD Hub), the Experimental Drug Development Centre (EDDC), and the National Additive Manufacturing Innovation Cluster (NAMIC).

The expansion of the IFP is an important move that underscores Singapore's commitment to support firms in innovation.

The three National I&E Platforms will offer structured training programmes leveraging the expertise and infrastructure relevant to respective industry domains. More details will be shared when the training programmes are launched.

a. Diagnostics Development Hub (DxD Hub)

DxD Hub's training is targeted at graduates from institutes of higher learning, mid-career PMETs and employees from other public sector organisations. The on-the-job programme aims to train deep tech talents and equip them with industry knowledge, such as standards and guidelines, and competence to participate in end-to-end productisation and commercialisation projects for medical devices.

b. Experimental Drug Development Centre (EDDC)

EDDC will train Fellows in drug discovery, project management, business development, and commercialisation. Targeted at PhD or equivalent graduates in life sciences or related fields, the proposed programme will include coursework, on-the-job training and mentorship. Where suitable, potential Fellows will also support the coordination of the [Target Translation Consortium \(TTC\)](#), and have the opportunity to work on co-development projects directly with EDDC's industry partners, including local biotech companies.

c. National Additive Manufacturing Innovation Cluster (NAMIC)

NAMIC will train and develop Fellows into skilled professionals in Additive Manufacturing (AM) project management, to serve the growing manpower needs for companies expanding into the business of AM. Targeted at PMETs or mid-career technical professionals, the proposed programme will include structured and on-the-job training through secondments to NAMIC-supported industry projects, as well as through supporting projects at NAMIC Hubs, startups, and SMEs. Fellows will receive corporate mentorship, and have the opportunity to undergo relevant professional certification in AM subject areas, or AM-relevant Innovation and Enterprise skills.

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ABOUT THE DIAGNOSTICS DEVELOPMENT HUB

The Diagnostics Development (DxD) Hub is a national initiative in Singapore, led by the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR).

The DxD Hub aims to accelerate the transformation of innovations into clinically validated diagnostic devices that are ready for market adoption. Through impactful products, empowering local enterprises and anchoring global companies in Singapore, the DxD Hub contributes to the development of an effective diagnostic devices ecosystem in Singapore.

More information can be found at <https://dxdhub.sg>.

ABOUT THE EXPERIMENTAL DRUG DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

The Experimental Drug Development Centre (EDDC) is Singapore's national platform for drug discovery and development, formed from the integration of the Experimental Therapeutics Centre (ETC), Drug, Discovery and Development (D3), and Experimental Biotherapeutics Centre (EBC) in 2019.

EDDC aims to develop therapeutics and diagnostics that save and improve the lives of patients in Singapore, Asia and around the world. EDDC works collaboratively with public sector and industry partners to translate the great science arising from Singapore's biomedical and clinical sciences R&D into innovative healthcare solutions.

More information can be found at www.a-star.edu.sg/eddc.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING INNOVATION CLUSTER

The National Additive Manufacturing Innovation Cluster (NAMIC) is a pan-national initiative led by the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), supported by the National Research Foundation under the Prime Minister's Office, in partnership with Enterprise Singapore and Singapore Economic Development Board.

NAMIC aims to increase Singapore's adoption of additive manufacturing technologies to enhance its competitiveness in the rapidly evolving landscape of digital industrialisation. NAMIC focuses on promising AM technologies and companies, as well as accelerating translational R&D from public institutions with a focus on industrial commercial applications. NAMIC also assists companies seeking capital injection either through project joint-funding or its investor networks.

More information can be found at <https://namic.sg>.