

MedTech Catapult

What is it?

MedTech Catapult is a new national initiative hosted by the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) which aims to build a go-to medical device product development infrastructural platform in Singapore. The \$38 million initiative will accelerate speed to market through design, development, verification, and validation of high-value MedTech products for companies in Singapore. Through such efforts, the initiative seeks to improve the successful launch of novel MedTech products by companies in Singapore.

MedTech Catapult will initially focus on life science instruments and FDA Class I/II medical devices, especially in optoelectronic modules that are capable of biosensing and miniaturisation to reduce footprint. This initiative will enhance the MedTech manufacturing capacities of our local contract manufacturing organisations (CMOs) for novel products. MedTech Catapult is also committed to sustainable design.

MedTech Catapult complements earlier R&D investments made by the Government: Diagnostics Development Hub for productisation of in vitro diagnostics (IVDs), Digital Health Accelerator for digital health, Innovation Factory@SIMTech for health and wellness products, and Singapore Biodesign for talent development. Together, these initiatives support companies across the entire MedTech value chain in Singapore.

Through MedTech Catapult, Singapore is positioning itself for the next wave of emerging smart and sustainable life science tools and medical devices, supporting the growth of an innovation-driven economy and a robust MedTech ecosystem.

How does it work?

The MedTech Catapult initiative will kickstart in April 2024. Hosted at A*STAR, MedTech Catapult will work closely with ecosystem stakeholders to translate intellectual property into commercial products, and will employ a robust evaluation process to identify projects that demonstrate potential for high return on investment. To support these projects, MedTech Catapult will offer dedicated in-house product engineering resources i.e., ISO13485-accredited wet lab, dry lab, equipment, manpower, as well as project management capabilities and development support for quality, regulatory and clinical affairs.

MedTech Catapult will also establish a network of CMOs and design houses to complement and augment in-house product engineering capabilities. This will facilitate the transfer of design for manufacturing to local CMOs and create a track record to anchor future high-value manufacturing opportunities for SMEs. This initiative will upskill upward of 60 product engineers within four years and support the localisation of critical suppliers.

How can companies tap on it?

MedTech Catapult is committed to accelerating the design and development of high-value MedTech products that address unmet medical needs.

The national initiative is keen to partner industry in supporting design & development processes through providing an enhanced suite of design engineering services or investment into co-development.

MedTech Catapult welcomes companies, agencies and institutions with an innovative MedTech concept to reach out for collaboration. It also welcomes interest from clinical organisations and distributors who are keen to trial and deploy innovative MedTech technologies to improve patient outcomes.

For more information about MedTech Catapult, please visit <https://www.a-star.edu.sg/medtechcatapult>.

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About the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR)

The Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) is Singapore's lead public sector R&D agency. Through open innovation, we collaborate with our partners in both the public and private sectors to benefit the economy and society. As a Science and Technology Organisation, A*STAR bridges the gap between academia and industry. Our research creates economic growth and jobs for Singapore, and enhances lives by improving societal outcomes in healthcare, urban living, and sustainability. A*STAR plays a key role in nurturing scientific talent and leaders for the wider research community and industry. A*STAR's R&D activities span biomedical sciences to physical sciences and engineering, with research entities primarily located in Biopolis and Fusionopolis. For ongoing news, visit www.a-star.edu.sg.

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