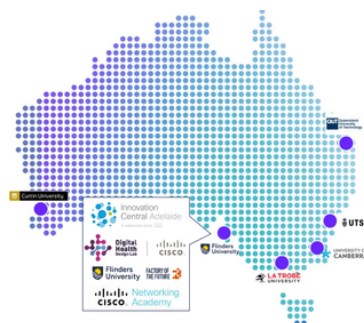


Acceleration through collaboration

Innovation Central Adelaide is the first step along your innovation and digital journey.

Located across Australia, managed and led in partnership between Cisco and Australian universities, Innovation Central facilitates collaboration: bringing together companies, small-to-medium businesses, researchers and industry experts to develop innovative digital solutions that create opportunities and disrupt industries.



FOUNDATION PARTNERS

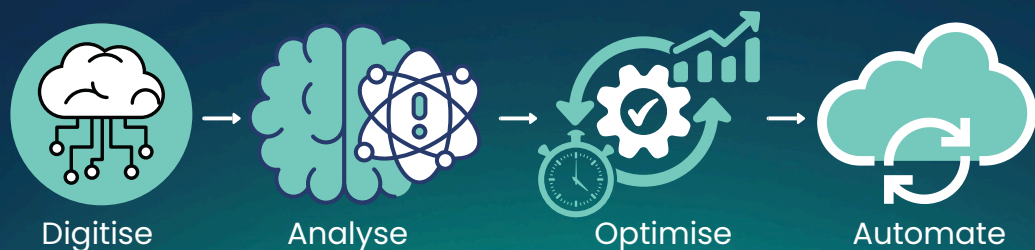


Strategic initiatives for innovation and engagement

Innovation Central Adelaide enables organisations to solve real-world challenges through rapid prototyping, simulation, data driven insights, and high-tech visualisation, accelerating progress across industries.

Innovation Central Adelaide (ICA) at Flinders University is a collaboration with Cisco, and one of six innovation centrals across Australia. These anchor the National Industry Innovation Network, an initiative that engages with higher education institutions.

ICA's purpose is to collaborate with industry, business, and government to advance digital enablement and uptake. It does this via defined research and innovation work packages, including contract research, concept-to-proof programs, student projects, higher degree engagement, and by generating and fostering issues-based communities.



ICA in action...



Cybersecure medical devices



Field Trial Vertical Axis Turbine



Smart Ambulance maintenance



Data driven water quality testing

KEY INSIGHTS FOR CRITICAL TECHNOLOGIES SYMPOSIUM



MONDAY OCTOBER 27, 2025

8.30am - 1.00pm

Level 14, Flinders Festival Tower, Station Rd, Adelaide



A collaboration led by Cisco

FOUNDATION PARTNERS



Contact Us

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Powering an inclusive future by unlocking the value of digitisation.

Foreword

South Australia stands at a pivotal moment in its innovation journey. As global competition for critical technologies intensifies, our state has a unique opportunity to lead, not just in research, but in real-world adoption.

This symposium brings together government, industry, and academia to explore how AI, quantum, cybersecurity, and IoT can be embedded into our economy and society. Around the world, regions that move first are reaping the rewards: talent, investment, and influence. So why not here?

This is a challenge to think differently—not about what we could do, but what we must do. The opportunity is real, the technology is here, and the partnerships are in place. *Let's turn strategy into action!*

Dr Kathryn Anderson
Program Director, Innovation Central Adelaide



Adopting critical technologies

South Australia's clear opportunity is to position itself as the national testbed for critical technology adoption by aligning government, industry, and academia.

Key recommendations include: trialling and scaling technologies in real-world settings; embedding innovation into anchor industries like resources, defence, health, and manufacturing; and building a future-ready workforce through vocational and specialist training.

Structured adoption programs, inclusive education models, and collaborative testbeds are essential.

The Flinders–Cisco–NIIN partnership offers mechanisms to lower risk, accelerate deployment, and connect to global innovation flows—ensuring South Australia leads in translating technology into economic and social value.

Critical technologies and sovereign capability

Sovereignty over critical technologies and critical infrastructure has become a strategic imperative. These domains, while interconnected, demand distinct approaches. Critical technologies like AI, quantum, and advanced communications shape capability and innovation. Critical infrastructure such as telecommunications systems, platforms and data centres anchor national resilience.

Australia's blueprint and South Australia's Critical Technologies Framework prioritise autonomy, secure supply chains, and sovereign control. Cisco's Sovereign Infrastructure portfolio exemplifies this shift, offering compliance-ready, air-gapped systems. *Yet sovereignty is not just technical, it's human.*

IoT, AI and ML

AI, ML, and IoT are transforming Australia's critical sectors today—not tomorrow. In healthcare, smart diagnostics and monitoring enhance care in defence, autonomous systems redefine security.

Manufacturing benefits from intelligent IoT networks, while AI boosts sustainability in resources. Even recreation is evolving through immersive, data-rich IoT experiences. Cisco's AI Canvas and Deep Network Model exemplify scalable infrastructure.

As these technologies learn and adapt, ethical deployment becomes essential. *Are we ready for a future where every system thinks, learns, and adapts—and are we prepared to shape it?*



Human factors

Australia's digital future hinges not just on critical technologies, but on human readiness to adopt them.

Cisco's AI Workforce Consortium finds that 78% of ICT roles now require AI skills, yet human capabilities—communication, ethics, leadership—are increasingly vital. Adoption fails when tech outpaces people and usability, trust, and cultural fit are often overlooked.

If we ignore human factors such as skills, motivation, and context, we risk building systems that alienate rather than empower. *Are we enabling adoption, or just deploying innovation?*

Quantum

Quantum computing is poised to redefine productivity, industry, and national capability. Current networking breakthroughs suggest scalable quantum data centres could arrive within a decade.

Australia's National Quantum Strategy and South Australia's Critical Technologies initiatives position the nation as a global leader, with over \$7 billion invested in quantum R&D. MIT's 2025 Quantum Index Report confirms accelerating commercialisation of the technology, with the number of quantum processors available globally increasing.

While transformative potential is clear, assumptions about timelines and workforce readiness remain speculative. Policymakers and industry must act now to avoid being outpaced by global competitors. *Quantum is no longer theoretical—it's imminent.*

Policy to action

Australia's Critical Technologies Statement and South Australia's strategic frameworks articulate a bold vision—but how do we move from policy to practice? Cisco's and Flinders' insights show that productivity gains from AI, automation, and secure infrastructure depend on execution.

Productivity gains hinge on adoption, not aspiration. The challenge lies in translating policy into scalable, inclusive action. It is not simply defining critical technologies, it's enabling them. How do we bridge vision and delivery, aligning incentives and risk appetite? And how do we embed human values into sovereign capability?

The future of productivity depends on how we answer these questions—together.