



# VALUE PROPOSITION FOR FOUNDATION MEMBERS

ABN: 90 601 492 826

SUPPORTED BY



## **CBRIN Value Proposition for Foundation Members**

CBRIN is a not-for-profit organisation set up in 2014 by Canberra-based publicly funded education and research institutions including the Australian National University, University of Canberra, UNSW Canberra and the Canberra Institute of Technology.

These institutions together are the Foundation Members who fund and take major responsibility for the governance of CBRIN as set out in the Company Constitution and Membership Agreement.

The creation of the joint company by the Foundation Members has been the major rationale for the ACT Government to provide it with funding and space to operate from via successive Funding Agreements and Licence Agreements to use the space at 1 Moore Street.

The Company's primary objectives are defined in its constitution as:

- Provide a network linking businesses and entrepreneurs to services, facilities and stakeholders that accelerate their innovation and growth.
- Promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in the ACT.
- Take a central role in growing the innovation ecosystem in the ACT and building individual and corporate capability.
- Develop innovative approaches to provide services that support the growth and diversity of the ACT economy.

The company is supported by private sector partners who subscribe to and support the above value proposition. The company reports on how it applies its resources to implement the above objectives via its quarterly reports; impact is measured via its regular Impact reports and the stakeholders have an opportunity to influence the strategy and tactics of how the company achieves the objectives through the company strategy and annual workplans.

Foundation Members derive value from the company pursuing its purpose mostly indirectly by benefiting from the ecosystem the company helps create and coordinate. In addition, the company's programs and offerings represent an opportunity for Foundation Members to engage with the network to create direct benefits for their staff, students, researchers and initiatives.

Annually CBRIN delivers approximately 250 events that are accessed by approximately 8 – 11 thousand people. Of these close to 50 events are outreach events, most of them held at campuses of the Foundation Members. CBRIN provides substantial assistance to over 50 innovation companies each quarter and over 100 different innovation companies in a year. The CBRIN mentor pool sees approximately 60 mentors actively engaged with entrepreneurs each quarter and the accessible pool of mentors is approximately 150.

The overall impact of CBRIN on the ACT innovation ecosystem is significant with contribution of over 1600 jobs and annual contribution of close to \$200M to the GSP of the ACT. In less than 10 years of its existence CBRIN has contributed some ~900M in aggregate and created significant return on the collective investment made into it by its supporters.

Below we summarise the 2026 programs and current offerings that are relevant to the Foundation Members. There are currently 21 different programs, events series or offerings that are relevant throughout the year to the Foundation Members, their staff, students or researchers interested in innovation, entrepreneurship or commercialisation.

### **Program: Idea to Impact**

- 4 half-day practical workshops over 12 weeks that cover core entrepreneurship skills including customer discovery, pitching skills, driving growth, funding and investor pitching:
- This is great for early-stage entrepreneurs, innovators, and researchers who are interested in learning in practice how to create more impact with their research.
- **How to engage** (FM representatives are welcome to attend / experience) can be found on CBRIN website <https://cbrin.com.au/events> or please contact [irene.zhen@cbrin.com.au](mailto:irene.zhen@cbrin.com.au)

### **Service: Researcher (intro) conversations**

- Researchers can book a free and confidential conversation with us about what they're working on and their goals. We usually get researchers who are looking to start engaging externally with potential industry partners as well as those who have spinout goals. In these conversations, we typically act as a sounding board and provide an external perspective, having seen many of these projects come through, particularly on resources they can access, people in the community they should connect with and ideas on how to make progress on engaging externally that is aligned to their goals/project.
- Link: <https://bit.ly/cbrinresearcher>

### **Service: Founder/Spinout conversations**

- Where a team is on the spinout route, we will connect them to the broader innovation community, including potential mentors, investors and key team members where relevant. Having seen many projects come through, we act as a sounding board and support these projects where we can. Same link applies as above.

### **Program: InnovationACT – Student & Researcher Entrepreneurship Competition**

- InnovationACT is a 2-week entrepreneurship competition for students and researchers to develop innovation skills, access mentors and pitch for a share of \$10,000 in funding. This is a program that started out of the ANU and now sits with CBRIN delivering it to all the tertiary institutions in Canberra. This program is typically run between August and September.
- How to engage: relevant newsletters and events page will have application information in July / August, direct contact: [irene.zhen@cbrin.com.au](mailto:irene.zhen@cbrin.com.au)

### **Program (external): CSIRO ON Prime & Accelerate**

- This is another program with a long history in Canberra that supports researchers who are looking for impact from their work (ON Prime) or to build new ventures based on their research (ON Accelerate). CBRIN has been a delivery partner for CSIRO since 2017, and this has been great in terms of leveraging CSIRO resources to build ventures in Canberra. Alumni include Quantum Brilliance, Nomad Atomics, PPB Technology and many others.
- How to engage: CSIRO has a cohort system addressing Foundation Members directly and amplified via CBRIN newsletter and [irene.zhen@cbrin.com.au](mailto:irene.zhen@cbrin.com.au)

### **Events series: First Wednesday Connect**

- Since 1 July 2015 CBRIN has been organising a major regular gathering of the ACT innovation ecosystem – First Wednesday Connect networking held every first Wednesday of the month

at 5 pm. The event is significant for the connectivity and vibrancy of the innovation community in Canberra with over 100 iterations held and 22 thousand registrations of which approximately 50% are unique people. Foundation members have an opportunity to host the event on their campuses and to nominate presenters for the 1 minute rapid pitch format.

- To host the event or nominate pitchers, please connect with Shashank Bokil from the CBRIN growth team: [Shashank.bokil@cbrin.com.au](mailto:Shashank.bokil@cbrin.com.au)

### **Program (external) Griffin Accelerator**

- Griffin Accelerator is an intensive, mentor-driven high-growth-venture-focused 12 week accelerator program. The mentors pool money to invest in the startups and work with them to help them raise capital at the end of the program. The mentors co-invest in the capital raise with a pre-agreed discount. This is relevant for deep tech startups that have a clear path to market and succeed in a competition of pitches to the mentors/investors at the entry to the program.
- Cost: equity for investment, Frequency: weekly stand-up sessions and seminars at CBRIN over 12 weeks (typically Mondays), work on your startup, included are desks in CBRIN for 3 + 3 months, must be a company or must form a company at the beginning of the program, typically only 5-7 companies per cohort)
- How to engage: relevant newsletters and events page will have application information, direct contact: [irene.zhen@cbrin.com.au](mailto:irene.zhen@cbrin.com.au)

### **Program: Scale Up Leaders**

- This is a regular (monthly) lunchtime event for founders or executives of companies at the scale up stage (post revenue, post funding) and includes a number of deep tech ventures. The format is interactive, peer group learning that is facilitated and has guest speakers, such as other deep tech ventures or venture investors focusing each time on a different topic. Typically, most relevant for graduates of Griffin Accelerator or ON Programs but open to any Canberra based scale up stage company.
- Cost: free, frequency – once per quarter, contact [Irene.Zhen@cbrin.com.au](mailto:Irene.Zhen@cbrin.com.au) to secure an invite.

### **Event series: SME breakfasts**

- Each quarter, CBRIN brings together 40-50 SME owners for a breakfast where owners and operators of the companies are put on tables to discuss specific topics. This will be relevant for researcher originated businesses that are not high-growth ventures, e.g. consulting practices or similar. If researchers are interested to engage with SMEs please let us know, we can provide access to these gatherings.
- Cost: \$27, once per quarter, sign up for the newsletter or follow CBRIN events page, alternatively contact [james.presneill@cbrin.com.au](mailto:james.presneill@cbrin.com.au) to learn more about the program for SMEs that includes these breakfasts.

### **Offering: Researcher or staff guest workshops/lectures**

- We offer free mini workshops or guest lecture content to researcher or staff groups or courses to stimulate thinking around connecting with their stakeholders/customers and to introduce skills around this. These are ad hoc, on demand and opportunistic to append or integrate in Foundation Members existing events.

- Our main offerings are:
  - Introduction to the Canberra Innovation Ecosystem
  - Research to Impact – short workshop on connecting their work with stakeholders and customers
  - Pitching – practical and iterative workshop on developing a one-minute pitch
- contact [Irene.Zhen@cbrin.com.au](mailto:Irene.Zhen@cbrin.com.au) to organise.

### **Annual Event: Innovation showcase**

- Towards the end of the year CBRIN partners with anyone and everyone across the ecosystem to host its largest event – the innovation showcase. In 2024 and 2023 these events saw over 600 registrations. Each foundation member has an opportunity to set up a stand and promote the opportunity to exhibit also to its research-based innovation projects. The event is open access to students, staff and researchers of Foundation Members who connect with the ecosystem, build connections and/or present their projects.
- CBRIN events page, and newsletters, contact to organise exhibition spot:  
[ben.garrett@cbrin.com.au](mailto:ben.garrett@cbrin.com.au)

### **Grant Program: Innovation Connect Grants**

- ICON is up to \$30,000 in matched funding from ACT Government for innovative projects that are intended to lead to the formation or growth of a private innovative company with anticipated economic impact (jobs, exports, collaborations, contribution to competitive advantage) in the ACT.
- 2 cohorts per year, competitive, participants get intro meetings with CBRIN, can participate in info sessions, if shortlisted get pitch feedback and then pitch to independent panel to secure the funding. Up to \$500k per year available contingent on ACT Gov funding.
- How to engage: <https://cbrin.com.au/icon> (current cohort closes 10 April)

### **Custom: Hackathons, Collaborative Innovation Labs & Researcher Sandpits and events**

- We run bespoke events to bring together different groups of people to ideate and pitch ideas. They can be traditional hackathon formats (e.g. Spacehack – pitch a space related startup) or collaborative initiatives (e.g. Homelessness Challenge), as well as everything in between. We can run them for Foundation Members for 50% discount where the Foundation member is a sponsor or we can run them for a different sponsor and invite subject matter experts and participants from Foundation Member institutions to engage.
- Sandpits engage a group of researchers or experts, relevant industry partners, startups and mentors to start ideating on research-industry collaborations in a short, fun and interactive session. Can be sponsored by a foundation member or industry partner.
- Foundation members each have been a sponsor or cosponsor of these hackathons in the past. To arrange, contact [jack.cassidy@cbrin.com.au](mailto:jack.cassidy@cbrin.com.au), our Collaborative Innovation Manager.

### **Grant Program: Prototyping Voucher Pilot**

- Starting in March 2025, CBRIN in collaboration with its Foundation Members and with support from the ACT Government implements a grant program to provide up to \$10,000

matched grant funding to a project that needs prototyping and can receive this as a service (access to equipment and expertise) from one of the Foundation Members. The Foundation Members together form a Steering Committee that manages the delivery of the program.

- How to engage: <https://cbrin.com.au/act-prototyping-voucher-pilot/> or contact [jack.cassidy@cbrin.com.au](mailto:jack.cassidy@cbrin.com.au)

#### **External programs: Social Enterprise support by the Mill house Ventures**

- Since 2016 CBRIN has been providing in-kind and financial support to the Mill House Ventures (alongside the UC, Service One, the Snow Foundation and ACT Government) enabling them to offer comprehensive support to social entrepreneurs in the Canberra region. Researchers, students and staff of CBRIN Foundation Members who intend to trade for (commercialise) social, cultural or environmental good can access grants, learning, community, acceleration and scale up assistance and mentoring delivered by the Mill House Ventures.
- How to engage: book a consult with the team at: <https://millhouseventures.com.au/>

#### **Annual event: CBRIN Investor Showcase**

- In April each year CBRIN brings together ecosystem companies that are investment ready and are actively seeking investors in a showcase event that attracts an increasing number of investors and venture funds from all over Australia. In 2025, the event had 130 investor registrations and showcased more than 30 ventures, many of those deep tech ventures with Foundation Member researcher, alumni or student cofounders or teams. Companies raising capital should book an intro meeting with CBRIN and express their interest to participate with the CBRIN Growth team in about December to March each year.
- How to engage: Book intro meeting, contact [irene.zhen@cbrin.com.au](mailto:irene.zhen@cbrin.com.au)

#### **Event series: Entrepreneur Events**

- Ambition is one of the key ingredients that helps accelerate progress of entrepreneurial ventures. To nurture ambition and inspire next generations of entrepreneurs CBRIN holds several types of events throughout the year, including fireside chats where successful entrepreneurs share their lessons learned and uncensored stories of what it is like to build a high growth ambitious innovation company. The event is open and accessible to anyone, and we often connect it with an opportunity to apply for programs such as ICON or Griffin Accelerator later.
- How to engage: CBRIN events page or newsletter

#### **Event: Innovation Forum**

- In late September 2025 CBRIN will host half-day Innovation Forum. At this event we invite the extended team, CBRIN Advisory Committee, Foundation Members and Partners and ACT Government (we recommend that the invite be extended to 10 people from the member or partner institution or organisation) to come together to hear about the state of the innovation ecosystem, programs and events and help create input into October Board plus partner strategic planning. The forum is an opportunity to surface the needs of the innovation community and Foundation Members to be addressed by the Advisory

Committee, Board and CBRIN team throughout the year. It also builds broader connections within the ecosystem and across the member and partner organisations.

- Invite only event but with discretion of the Foundation Members and partners to identify people from their organisations to participate. Contact [petr.adamek@cbrin.com.au](mailto:petr.adamek@cbrin.com.au) to nominate your team.

#### **Event series: Female Founders**

- Six times per year we organise a gathering accessible to all female entrepreneurs and focus on specific issues that may be blocking progress of female led (not only innovation) projects. These are lunchtime events with salad bar and non-alcoholic drinks, the atmosphere is inclusive, everyone is welcome who is a female founder or who supports or intends to support female founders.
- Cost: \$15 per lunch, frequency: every 2 months, approximately 50 participants each time, includes networking and the format varies from panels to collaborative exercises and peer learning or showcases – access via CBRIN newsletter, events page.

#### **Monthly coordination event: CBRIN Extended team**

- Regularly, at 9:30 am on each first Wednesday of the month (except January) CBRIN hosts a virtual (2 times per year also in person) meetup open to all ACT innovation ecosystem professionals who represent different organisations, including all Foundation members. During this virtual roundtable, each organisation provides updates, shares event and collaboration opportunities and reports on results or outcomes of their engagements in the past month. This is highly participatory, inclusive opportunity for any person who works in the innovation ecosystem in Canberra to develop their network, bilateral relationships, get to understand what others do and promote their own events and opportunities in coordinated, non-competing nor duplicating way. In these meetups you can connect with ACT Government, Badji program for indigenous entrepreneurs, ACT Trade Start, Lighthouse Business Innovation Centre, Canberra Cyber Hub, all other Foundation Members, CSIRO On ecosystem, Screen Canberra, Campus Plus, ANU Agrifood Innovation Institute, Department of Industry, Science and Innovation and many others.
- To check who your representatives are, and nominate your new or additional representatives to be a part of this meeting, please connect with Candace Rhind, [candace.rhind@cbrin.com.au](mailto:candace.rhind@cbrin.com.au)