

SUPPORTING STARTUPS TO START AND LEAD SPACE VENTURES

Venture Catalyst Space is a globally recognised program dedicated to supporting startup founders to develop innovative, disruptive businesses in the international space sector.

Delivered by the University of South Australia's Innovation & Collaboration Centre (ICC), and supported by the State Government's Space Innovation Fund, the program has a strong history of connecting founders with a global pool of industry experts, including stakeholders from NASA, the Australian Space Agency, Defence SA, Airbus, CSIRO, Fleet, Nova Systems, Myriota and the Smart SatCRC.

Since its inception in 2018, Venture Catalyst Space has supported 36 space startups. The program has helped fast-track the cohort's market entry, accelerate their commercialisation journeys, and strengthen their connections to investors and researchers

Expressions of interest for the next cohort are now open. icc.unisa.edu.au

“THE SPACE NETWORK IN ADELAIDE HELPED US DEVELOP QUICKLY WITH PARTNERS, UNIVERSITIES AND INDUSTRY.”

Katrina Albert
Co-Founder
Lux

“THE COMMERCIAL REALITIES OF CREATING A SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS MODEL SEEMS LIKE A NEBULOUS PROBLEM TOO EARLY TO TACKLE. THE PROGRAM HAS REALLY OPENED MY MIND TO THE APPROACHES I CAN USE TO ADDRESS THAT RISK.”

RaviTeja Duggineni
Founder
ResearchSat



CASE STUDY: PING



Intelligent listening for wind farms

Ping Services is a graduate of the Venture Catalyst space program. The company uses an aero-acoustic device to continuously monitor wind turbines for blade damage, significantly reducing detection times and repair costs.

Ping have since employed additional staff, identified a target market, identified operational improvements and honed their prototype. They secured over \$2 million investment which has seen them further accelerate their revolutionary product.

Chief Executive Officer, Matthew Stead, admits that he had optimistic but measured expectations for the value he'd glean from the startup program, but has been greatly surprised.

“THE QUALITY AND BREADTH OF THE PROGRAM'S SUPPORT HAS GIVEN US STRUCTURE AND ENABLED US TO APPLY OUR RESOURCES MORE PRODUCTIVELY. THE PROGRAM IDENTIFIES A NUMBER OF PROCESSES AND MODELS FOR LOGICALLY APPROACHING OUR STARTUP, RATHER THAN LEAVING IT TO CHANCE. PLUS, IT'S PROVIDED A DEDICATED SPACE TO FOCUS ON OUR BUSINESS – THIS HAS BEEN INVALUABLE AND WE'VE HAD SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS OVER THE SIX MONTHS.”

The 'Ping Monitor' uses aero-acoustic listening to detect damage in wind turbines.

KEY FEATURES



Funding

A stipend of \$10,000 AUD per company. Relocation grants available for eligible companies.



University resources

Access to co-working space and to UniSA's support services including research and placements.



Mentoring

One-on-one mentoring sessions to support implementation of your learnings.



Workshops

A series of capability workshops and pitch and feedback sessions designed for founders to accelerate growth.



ICC community

Regular group activities supporting community building, resilience and access to networking events



Expert advisers

Access to a pool of global industry experts who specialise in advice for the startup journey.

100%

100% equity free

You and your company retain all equity when joining the Venture Catalyst Space program.

WHAT IS A SPACE STARTUP?

The term 'space' no longer means the same as it did five years ago.

In the past, space exploration was just that, going out and exploring the galaxy. In 2023, more companies are contributing to the space economy than ever but utilising existing space technology to solve real-world problems.

These new companies may not appear to be connected to the traditional space industry as they may only use space signals and data in their own products, typically concerning satellite communications, satellite television, geospatial products and location-based services, but this information can benefit many different industries (example above).

A space company utilises space technology or data.

For example:

- Using information provided by satellites to monitor drones
- Using beacons to help grape growers improve the quality of their fruit by monitoring weather conditions, or
- Using satellites to capture images of earth for mining companies.

Taking Expressions Of Interest

Expression of interest for 2024 are open now.

For any further questions visit
icc.unisa.edu.au/venturecatalystspace

Apply now

“WE’RE USING OUR CONNECTIONS TO DO SOME MANUFACTURING HERE AND MAKE TEKUMA EVERYWHERE.

Annette McClelland
Co-Founder Tekuma

“WE’VE MADE MORE PROGRESS IN THE PAST 2-3 MONTHS THAN WE HAVE IN 18 MONTHS IN SYDNEY.

Michael Griffin
Co-Founder
Tekuma

Global Pathways Program

The ICC is part of the Business Innovation and Investment Program (BIIP) to attract promising overseas seed-stage entrepreneurs to develop their concepts in South Australia through the Entrepreneur Stream (Subclass 188E). This means temporary visas will be issued to those that meet all the Department of Home Affairs' criteria and requirements. If you are building a company using space technologies or creating tech, services or products for the space industry, we want to hear from you.

Find out more

