

SMART Innovation Centre



Director



Dr Howard Califano

Dr Howard Califano leads and manages the overall operation of the Innovation Centre. He has founded, held executive management positions, acted as Member of the Board of Directors and CEO of multiple companies in the United States and Asia. He was Consulting Director of BIO*One Capital Pte Ltd. Dr Califano was also the CEO of Johns Hopkins-NUH International Medicine Center.

The SMART Innovation Centre initiated in 2009, operates under the Singapore-MIT Alliance for research and Technology (SMART) and is funded by the National Research Foundation (NRF). Similar to the highly successful Deshpande Center for Technological Innovation at MIT, the SMART Innovation Centre identifies and nurtures a broad range of emerging technologies, including but not limited to biotechnology, biomedical devices, information technology, new materials, nanotechnology, and energy innovations and will act as a catalyst to create a fertile environment for entrepreneurship to grow.

Innovation Centre

The Innovation Centre administers a Grant Programme that enables faculty and researchers to pursue exciting new avenues of market-driven research and participate in programmes that will help accelerate their innovations toward commercialisation. Our mission is to nurture scientists and engineers so that their innovations can be accelerated to commercialisation.



Highlights

Innovation Grant

The Grant program is opened to researchers and faculty at all Singapore Universities and Research Institutes. An Innovation Grant (up to S\$250,000.00) or an Ignition Grant (up to S\$50,000.00) is used to (1) De-risk the technology by developing prototypes or conducting proof-of-concept experiments; and (2) determine a go-to-market strategy for the products or services being developed.

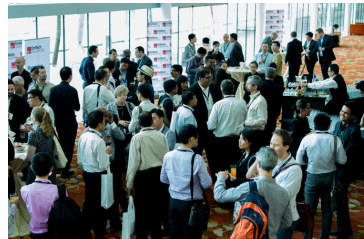
The end point of the grant funding would be a well defined business opportunity attractive to start-up company formation or licensing to a commercial firm. The Innovation Grant and support from the Innovation Centre will assist faculty to move their discovery from the laboratory to the marketplace.

Catalyst Program

The “Catalyst Program” was established to nurture and mentor entrepreneurs. “Catalysts” are selected from the local Singapore and International business community who have expertise working with emerging technology companies. The “Catalysts” are involved in one or at most two Projects and will act as a member of the team to develop a go-to-market scheme for his/her particular project.

Networking

The SMART Innovation Centre, with its link to the Deshpande Center in Cambridge, provides excellent networking opportunities for inventors, entrepreneurs and researchers with the global entrepreneurial community. SMART Innovation Centre projects may be presented in Cambridge at the Deshpande “Ideastream Event” and “Open House”. The SMART Innovation Grant also holds quarterly network events to convene the entrepreneurial community on the CREATE campus. It also organizes Technology that Matters and EmTech conferences in Singapore on emerging technologies and entrepreneurship.



Bootcamp

The SMART Entrepreneurship Bootcamp is a 3 day intensive hands-on, action learning experience exclusively designed for Principal Investigators, Researchers, Post-Docs and Graduate Students. It teaches the best practices developed by MIT to push technology from the laboratory to the marketplace. Anyone seriously interested in technology entrepreneurship should attend.



For more information about the SMART Innovation Centre, please contact: Dr Howard Califano (howard.califano@smart.mit.edu)