

## Three new Centres of Innovation set up to deepen innovation capabilities in built environment, beauty and personal care, and urban agriculture

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1. Enterprise Singapore (EnterpriseSG) has established three new Centres of Innovation (COIs) in the growing sectors of built environment, beauty and personal care, and urban agriculture. This was shared by Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat at the opening of the Singapore Week of Innovation and TeCHnology (SWITCH) 2022 flagship event today, as a key thrust to galvanise Singapore's innovation ecosystem and provide innovation support to more Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).
2. For Research, Innovation and Enterprise (RIE) 2020, COIs have contributed to an economic value-add of S\$150 million through working with local SMEs. The three new COIs aim to embark on more than 300 innovation projects with SMEs and support up to 1,500 Singapore SMEs to testbed and develop technology projects to capture opportunities in emerging growth areas.
3. **The Centre of Innovation for Built Environment – Advanced Materials** is a joint effort between Singapore Polytechnic, Republic Polytechnic and Temasek Polytechnic focusing on uplifting local SMEs' capabilities in advanced construction materials and chemical formulations, to meet industry requirements on sustainability, design and construction. It will also provide support to accelerate transformation efforts in building inspections, material characterisation, maintenance and repair solutions.
4. **The Centre of Innovation for Beauty and Personal Care** is located in Singapore Polytechnic to support the sector's growth by strengthening product development efforts in areas such as clean beauty, green cosmetics and innovative product formulation. Local SMEs can also harness the centre's technical expertise in consumer behaviour and market acceptance to bring their consumer care products to commercial success.

5. **The Centre of Innovation for Urban Agriculture** is a collaboration between the Republic Polytechnic and Temasek Polytechnic to drive innovation, build capabilities and foster collaboration among agritech SMEs, to leverage opportunities in the resource-constrained world. More details can be found in Republic Polytechnic's media release to be issued on 27 October 2022.
6. The three new additions will bring the total number of COIs to 11, each with a distinct industry focus. This is in line with the Budget 2022 announcement to expand resources at centres engaging in technology, innovation and enterprise activities across our polytechnics and Institutes of Technical Education.
7. COIs were established since 2006 to support SMEs with technology innovation for growth. In partnership with polytechnics and research institutes, they provide SMEs with access to an array of resources ranging from laboratory facilities to training and consultancy services, to embark on industry-led innovation. Over the years, the focus of COIs have shifted from adoption of tech solutions towards more innovation-centric projects involving product development as well as Intellectual Property (IP) translation and commercialisation.

**Annex A:** List of the 11 Centres of Innovation

**Annex B:** Examples of SMEs that have grown as a result of working with the COIs

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### **About Enterprise Singapore**

Enterprise Singapore is the government agency championing enterprise development. We work with committed companies to build capabilities, innovate and internationalise.

We also support the growth of Singapore as a hub for global trading and startups, and build trust in Singapore's products and services through quality and standards.

Visit [www.enterprisesg.gov.sg](http://www.enterprisesg.gov.sg) for more information.

## **About SWITCH**

The SWITCH Flagship event returns to Singapore at Resorts World Convention Centre from 25–28 October 2022. Join an international delegation of innovators, investors, and industry leaders who meet at this annual innovation festival where mutual collaboration and cross-market opportunities take place.

The 2022 edition features conference tracks, market access sessions, pitching competitions, exhibitions, networking opportunities, lab crawls, and a slew of partner events taking place during the Singapore Week of Innovation and Technology this October!

With Singapore being a hub for the Global-Asia innovation community, startups, entrepreneurs, investors, innovation teams, community multipliers, MNCs, and government representatives all meet at SWITCH to create positive change in our respective industries and markets.

Through the power of collaboration that drives this spirit of innovation, the connections made at SWITCH will further technology and innovation development, bring them to market, as well as establish relationships with like-minded colleagues to create a sustainable future through innovation and technology.

Visit [www.switchsg.org](http://www.switchsg.org) for more information.

**List of the 11 Centres of Innovation**

<b>S/N</b>	<b>Centres of Innovation</b>	<b>Areas of focus</b>
1	<b>Aquaculture Innovation Centre</b> with Temasek Polytechnic	Animal health, nutrition testing, genetics breeding, disease prevention
2	<b>Centre of Innovation for Beauty and Personal Care</b> with Singapore Polytechnic	Clean and sustainable beauty formulation, sensory evaluation and user acceptance studies, shelf life testing
3	<b>Centre of Innovation for Built Environment – Advanced Materials</b> with Singapore Polytechnic, Republic Polytechnic and Temasek Polytechnic	Advanced construction materials and chemical formulations, green building, building inspection and repair
4	<b>Centre of Innovation for Complementary Health Products</b> with Temasek Polytechnic	Pre-Clinical studies, validation and stability studies, profiling and analysis
5	<b>Centre of Innovation for Electronics and IoT</b> with Nanyang Polytechnic	IoT and edge computing, artificial intelligence, video analytics and imaging, autonomous system
6	<b>Centre of Innovation for Supply Chain Management</b> with Republic Polytechnic	Supply chain 4.0 network, AI, automation solutioning, process mapping and analytics, integrated technology
7	<b>Centre of Innovation for Urban Agriculture</b> with Republic Polytechnic and Temasek Polytechnic	Crop growth and health, smart farming
8	<b>Ecolabs Centre of Innovation for Energy</b> with Nanyang Technological University and Sustainable Energy Association of Singapore	Circular economy, carbon reduction, smart cities, green buildings and efficiency, clean energy
9	<b>Energy and Water Technology Centre of Innovation</b> with Ngee Ann Polytechnic	Water technology, waste management, clean energy, pollution control
10	<b>Food Innovation Resource Centre</b> with Singapore Polytechnic	Shelf-life extension and exportability, scalability and productivity, health and diet-centric foods, elderly nutrition
11	<b>Precision Engineering Centre of Innovation</b> with Singapore Institute of Manufacturing Technology	Materials, process and product innovation, mechatronics, surface engineering

**Examples of SMEs that have grown as a result of working with the COIs****Longway AI Technologies Pte Ltd**

Longway AI Technologies partnered with the Centre of Innovation for Electronics and IoT (COI-EIoT) at Nanyang Polytechnic to develop a non-intrusive Smart Elder Safety Monitoring System. Through the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and CCTVs, the system is able to detect when an elder may need physical assistance to get to the restroom or to navigate around the elderly home.

The company also tapped COI-EIoT's expertise in human pose prediction to create an AI-based human predictive model which can detect abnormal behavioural patterns of autistic and elderly clients in real time. The 24-hours real-time predictive monitoring solution triggers an alert system upon detection of behavioural abnormality, allowing centre staff to respond and intervene swiftly.

This partnership enabled the company to come up with new product offerings to expand its business to capture opportunities in the healthcare sector.

**Organic7days**

Organic7days embarked on a project with the Food Innovation Resource Centre (FIRC) in Singapore Polytechnic to develop Asian tasting ready-to-eat baby foods, after identifying a market gap in this area. The company worked with FIRC to develop baby food products that have a longer product shelf-life without added preservative, by refining its manufacturing and packaging process.

Organic7days now has 3 types of local flavoured ready-to-eat baby pouches retailing in local supermarkets under the brand name of Deliciously Bib. The company is also working with FIRC to develop more products to expand their product line.