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Enterprise Singapore strengthens Centres of Innovation to provide SMEs with more seamless innovation support

MR No.: 044/26

Singapore, Wednesday, 7 October 2026

- 1. Enterprise Singapore (EnterpriseSG) will strengthen the capabilities of the Centres of Innovation (COIs) to better support SMEs in developing and bringing new products and solutions to market.**
2. Established within the local Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs), COIs provide SMEs with access to specialised facilities and technical expertise to co-develop, test and validate their innovations. However, as SMEs pursue more complex innovation, they need expertise that is currently situated across different players and parts of the innovation ecosystem.
- 3. To better support SMEs in their innovation journey, EnterpriseSG will invest up to S\$120 million over the next five years to deepen the capabilities of the enhanced COIs in four additional areas:**
 - a. **Technology Discovery:** Source and match existing technologies from Singapore and overseas to SMEs' needs, reducing duplication of R&D efforts.
 - b. **Technology Adoption:** Identify and promote proven solutions to accelerate wider adoption across enterprises and industry use cases.
 - c. **Ecosystem Connectivity:** Connect SMEs to partners in areas such as manufacturing, regulatory compliance and market access, to support commercialisation of solutions. This includes facilitating access to overseas innovation centres and global technologies.

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- d. **Outreach and Industry Engagement:** Step up on engagement with SMEs and ecosystem partners, including SME Centres and Trade Associations and Chambers, to help SMEs understand technology trends and access the right support across the ecosystem.
4. **To streamline the touchpoints for SMEs and make it easier for them to access the expertise they need, the COI network will be consolidated from 27 to 10 centres.** These 10 enhanced COIs will bring together expertise, specialised facilities and industry connections, while reducing overlaps in offerings across the network. **The COIs will also take on relevant services provided by IPI, such as technology discovery and matching, to offer a more comprehensive suite of offerings in a single touchpoint.** With this expertise and institutional knowledge incorporated into the enhanced COIs, IPI will wind down on 31 March 2027.
5. The streamlining of the COI network and incorporation of IPI functions will affect staff in the various entities. EnterpriseSG will support them through the transition, with redeployment as the first priority.
 - a. EnterpriseSG is working to redeploy affected IPI staff to suitable roles within the enhanced COIs, the Public Service, and the broader innovation ecosystem.
 - b. All staff in the affected COIs are on fixed-term contracts tied to the completion of their projects. They will be offered roles in IHLs to complete ongoing projects or take on other suitable functions.
6. **Mr Lee Chuan Teck, Chairman, Enterprise Singapore, said:** “As our SMEs take on more complex innovation, we are enhancing our Centres of Innovation to strengthen the ecosystem. Ultimately, we want to make it easier for SMEs to access the support they need to innovate and grow in a more complex environment. I am deeply grateful to the teams at IPI and the COIs for their

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contributions and dedication over the years. Their work has helped many SMEs deepen their innovation capabilities and turn ideas into new products and solutions. The capabilities, networks and knowledge that they have built over the years will remain an important part of the strengthened innovation support model and continue to benefit SMEs.

We recognise that change of this nature can be difficult, particularly for colleagues who are directly affected. We are committed to helping them take the next steps in their careers. We will work closely with our partners to facilitate redeployment opportunities for staff, matched as closely as possible to each person's skills and experience.”

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About Enterprise Singapore

Enterprise Singapore is the government agency championing enterprise development.

We partner committed companies to build capabilities, innovate, and go global. We drive growth – empowering local businesses and shaping industries, anchoring Singapore as a trade and startup hub, and establishing trust in products through quality and standards.



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We're here, for wherever you're growing. Visit www.enterprisesg.gov.sg for more information.

About IPI

IPI is an innovation catalyst helping enterprises grow beyond boundaries. A subsidiary of Enterprise Singapore, we accelerate innovation by connecting businesses to global technologies, expertise, and advisory support.

We enable enterprises to access innovative ideas, commercialise solutions, and bring them to market with confidence. Visit www.ipi-singapore.org/ for more information.