

Australia provides funding to QUT training programme to accelerate medtech innovations

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To leverage a national alliance of experts in the medtech sector

The BridgeTech Programme, a successful medtech commercialisation training programme delivered by Queensland University of Technology (QUT), will continue for the next two years owing to a government funding initiative that supports high-quality Australian medical device projects with strong commercial potential.

Along with four preeminent industry partners, the BridgeTech Programme was selected as the educational partner for MTPConnect's Clinical Translation and Commercialisation Medtech (CTCM) Programme, to train Australian SMEs to commercialise medical device projects. As part of the agreement, the BridgeTech Programme has also received funding to continue out of QUT for 2023 and 2024.

The CTCM programme is an initiative of the Australian Government's Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF), designed to identify and nurture commercially-viable medtech projects being developed by Australian SMEs. The initiative offers \$250,000 to \$1.5 million to selected SMEs to accelerate their projects over two years, combined with support from educational and industry partner organisations.

Industry leaders involved in the BridgeTech Programme include Steven Kennedy, Vice President of Global Regulatory Affairs at Cochlear – the global medical device company that designs, manufactures, and supplies the Nucleus cochlear implant. Kennedy has been a representative of the partner consortium since BridgeTech's inception, speaking regularly at events and contributing to the program's design from an industry perspective.

As well as Cochlear, industry partners include Deloitte, Bosch, Life Sciences Queensland, Magnetica, Siemens Healthineers, Spruson & Ferguson, Stryker, Vaxxas, and several leading Australian universities.