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Singapore launches national platform to nurture deep tech startups

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New $50M programme, National GRIP, to train up to 300 startup teams by 2028



At the Research, Innovation and Enterprise (RIE) Day, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the National Research Foundation (NRF), Heng Swee Keat, announced the launch of the National Graduate Research Innovation Programme (National GRIP), a collaboration by NRF, the National University of Singapore (NUS) and NTU Singapore.

Set to commence in January 2025, National GRIP represents a significant investment in Singapore's innovation ecosystem, with SGD 50 million in financial and in-kind support committed over the next five years.

National GRIP will integrate two existing incubator programmes- NUS's Graduate Research Innovation Programme 2.0 (NUS GRIP 2.0) and NTU's Lean Launchpad (LLP2.0).

These programmes have collectively supported over 400 startup teams and produced nearly 160 spin-offs since their inception. The new National GRIP programme aims to bridge the gap between scientific research and commercialisation by guiding startup teams through refining ideas, validating market needs, and developing strong business models within a structured framework.

Participants will benefit from personalised mentorship by industry leaders and access to a vast network of experts, with the goal of training up to 300 startup teams by 2028 and nurturing over 150 spin-offs by 2030, advancing Singapore's position in global deep tech entrepreneurship.

The 12-month programme will bring together aspiring founders, innovators, and researchers from Singapore's autonomous universities and A*STAR research institutes, allowing participants to form interdisciplinary teams that leverage the unique expertise of their respective institutions. National GRIP participants will gain access to a wide pool of intellectual property across universities and research institutes, and can also collaborate with existing teams from NUS GRIP 2.0 and LLP2.0 to launch innovative deep tech startups.