



11.02.22

Program Manager  
Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources  
GPO Box 2013  
Canberra ACT 2601

To the Program Manager,

**Support for proposed *AI for Manufacturing: Digital Capability Centre***

In my position as Chief Operating Officer of NIOA, I am pleased to contribute to the *AI for Manufacturing Digital Capability Centre* because it is an example of global best practice for accelerating AI and robotics adoption and R&D commercialisation, especially for small to medium sized enterprises - the engine room of our economies. As the largest prime supplier to the ADF, NZDF and selected law enforcement for weapons and explosive ordnance, NIOA will provide support by engaging our supply chain companies, providing advice, expertise and networks.

The ARM Hub and AI Hub's proposal for a Centre will secure for Queensland and Australia the enabling capabilities to build our sovereign defence capability. The Centre will drive the industrial transformation of Australia with its high-value partnerships in industry, universities and government across the globe. I value this partnership as an opportunity to grow even stronger research and commercial ties between our company, the defence industry and the country's manufacturing ecosystem.

As a key stakeholder in the national defence manufacturing ecosystem, I know there is a growing worldwide demand among SMEs and their supply chains for the AI and related digital skills that the Centre offers. Further, the differentiated areas of expertise offered by the impressive partner network of the Centre provides the highly sought-after enabling capabilities to commercial business to access the cutting-edge skills, experience, and capabilities to realise the vision for a coordinated national and international network of digital capability.

I wish to provide my enthusiastic support for the application the ARM and AI Hubs are submitting to the Australian Government to support this important program. I see the establishment of the *AI for Manufacturing: Digital Capability Centre* that will attract new talent to Australia and result in capabilities that embed Australian capability into high value global supply chains.

Yours sincerely,

**Nigel**  
**Everingham**  
**m**

Digitally signed  
by Nigel  
Everingham  
Date: 2022.02.10  
12:58:39 +10'00'

**Nigel Everingham**  
Chief Operating Officer



21/09/2021

Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources  
GPO Box 2013  
Canberra ACT 2601

To the Program Manager,

**Support for ARM Hub's proposed *AI for Manufacturing: National Digital Capability Centre***

In my position as CEO of IoT Alliance Australia, I am aware of the ARM Hub's proposed *AI for Manufacturing: National Digital Capability Centre*, a new initiative for industry and research collaboration and commercialisation with SMEs that will drive the nation's industrial transformation. With a network of three digital capability facilities in Brisbane, Townsville and Cairns with high-value partnerships across the country, the Centre will meet the industry's huge and urgent demand to access AI skills and digital capability that is now so critical to building both Australia's sovereign manufacturing capability and the nation's role in high-value global supply chains.

The Centre offers end-to-end services in AI for Manufacturing from supporting companies to learn about AI to realising AI's commercial value. To support and accelerate this critical program, ARM Hub is seeking funding from the Federal Government's National Digital Capability Centre initiative.

We, the IoT Alliance Australia (IoTAA) are the peak industry body representing the Internet of Things (IoT) in Australia, with over 500 participating organisations and 1000 individual participants working across twelve workstreams – including a Manufacturing Workstream.

We see a thriving future for Australia and the world by connecting data, devices, people, processes, and things to the Internet allowing people to make better and more informed decisions to get the best possible outcomes and ultimately helps boost Australia's future success, productivity, competitiveness, jobs, and the economy.

As a key stakeholder in the Australian technology and industry ecosystem, the IoTAA agrees that there is widespread industry demand among SMEs and their supply chains for AI and related digital skills that the Centre offers. Further, the differentiated areas of expertise offered by the impressive partner network of the Centre has cutting-edge skills, experience, and capabilities to realise the vision for a coordinated national network of digital capability and this is evidenced by each partner's track record of returning beneficial outcomes across Australia.

[www.iot.org.au](http://www.iot.org.au)

On behalf of the IoTAA, I wish to provide my enthusiastic support for the application the ARM Hub is submitting to the Federal Government. I see the establishment of the *AI for Manufacturing: National Digital Capability Centre* and resulting capabilities as fundamental in industry collaboration and co-development of standards, joint skill development, sharing sustainable learnings, and forming mutually beneficial connections for the benefit of Australian Manufacturing.

Yours sincerely,



Frank Zeichner  
CEO, IoT Alliance Australia  
[frank.zeichner@iot.org.au](mailto:frank.zeichner@iot.org.au)



Darren Hungerford  
Chair, IoTAA Manufacturing Workstream  
[darren.hungerford@iot.org.au](mailto:darren.hungerford@iot.org.au)

Industry Hub, Level 3, 81-87 Broadway  
Ultimo 2007  
+61 408 233 762



[www.iot.org.au](http://www.iot.org.au)

Industry Hub, 81-87 Broadway, Ultimo NSW 2007

15 September 2021  
Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources  
GPO Box 2013  
Canberra ACT 2601

To the Program Manager,

**SUPPORT FOR ARM HUB'S PROPOSED AI FOR MANUFACTURING: NATIONAL DIGITAL CAPABILITY CENTRE**

In my position as Executive Chair of the Australian Design Council, I am aware of the ARM Hub's proposed AI for Manufacturing: National Digital Capability Centre, a new initiative for industry and research collaboration and commercialisation with SMEs that will drive the nation's industrial transformation.

With a network of three digital capability facilities in Brisbane, Townsville and Cairns with high-value partnerships across the country, the Centre will meet the industry's huge and urgent demand to access AI skills and digital capability that is now so critical to building both Australia's sovereign manufacturing capability and the nation's role in high-value global supply chains. The Centre offers end-to-end services in AI for Manufacturing from supporting companies to learn about AI to realising AI's commercial value. To support and accelerate this critical program, ARM Hub is seeking funding from the Federal Government's National Digital Capability Centre initiative.

As a key stakeholder in the Australian manufacturing and innovation ecosystem, I agree that there is widespread industry demand among SMEs and their supply chains for AI and related digital skills that the Centre offers. Further, the differentiated areas of expertise offered by the impressive partner network of the Centre has cutting-edge skills, experience, and capabilities to realise the vision for a coordinated national network of digital capability and this is evidenced by each partner's track record of returning beneficial outcomes across Australia.

I wish to provide my enthusiastic support for the application the ARM Hub is submitting to the Federal Government. I see the establishment of the *AI for Manufacturing: National Digital Capability Centre* and resulting capabilities as an important vehicle to help further diversify our economy and the industries which underpin Australia's national prosperity.

The Australian Design Council is a not-for-profit industry body established to advocate for a design-led future for Australia and to champion the role and importance of design to address complex social, economic and environmental challenges. has only been accelerated by the impacts of COVID-19 and we believe design can play a major role in this transition.

We believe the *AI for Manufacturing: National Digital Capability Centre* will deliver key manufacturing capability and know-how across Australian industry and the Australian Design Council strongly supports the application as it aligns with our overall aims and objectives to embed design as a strategic enabler within the Australian economy.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Sam Bucolo  
Executive Chair  
Australian Design Council  
[sam@australiandesigncouncil.org](mailto:sam@australiandesigncouncil.org)



Innes Willox  
Chief Executive  
The Australian Industry Group  
Level 2, 441 St Kilda Road, Melbourne VIC 3004  
PO Box 7622, Melbourne VIC 3004  
Australia  
ABN 76 369 958 788

05 October 2021

Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources  
GPO Box 2013  
Canberra ACT 2601

To the Program Manager,

**Re: Support for ARM Hub's proposed *AI for Manufacturing: National Digital Capability Centre***

In my position as Chief Executive of The Australian Industry Group, I am aware of the ARM Hub's proposed *AI for Manufacturing: National Digital Capability Centre*, a new initiative for industry and research collaboration and commercialisation with SMEs that will drive the nation's industrial transformation. With a network of three digital capability facilities in Brisbane, Townsville and Cairns with high-value partnerships across the country, the Centre will meet the industry's huge and urgent demand to access AI skills and digital capability that is now so critical to building both Australia's sovereign manufacturing capability and the nation's role in high-value global supply chains.

The Centre offers end-to-end services in AI for Manufacturing from supporting companies to learn about AI to realising AI's commercial value. To support and accelerate this critical program, ARM Hub is seeking funding from the Federal Government's National Digital Capability Centre initiative.

As a key stakeholder in the Australian innovative manufacturing ecosystem, I agree that there is widespread industry demand among SMEs and their supply chains for AI and related digital skills that the Centre offers. Further, the differentiated areas of expertise offered by the impressive partner network of the Centre has cutting-edge skills, experience, and capabilities to realise the vision for a coordinated national network of digital capability and this is evidenced by each partner's track record of returning beneficial outcomes across Australia.

I wish to provide my enthusiastic support for the application the ARM Hub is submitting to the Federal Government. I see the establishment of the *AI for Manufacturing: National Digital Capability Centre* and resulting capabilities as an important resource to embrace the rapidly advancing technologies that are producing waves of wider innovation across the economy as businesses and individuals build new social practices and business models upon them. Ai Group's members are grappling with these changes in different ways and with different levels of readiness and capability.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Innes Willox', with a horizontal line underneath.



24 September 2021

Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources

GPO Box 2013

Canberra ACT 2601

To the Program Manager,

**Support for ARM Hub's proposed *AI for Manufacturing: National Digital Capability Centre***

In my position as CEO of the AIIA, I am aware of the ARM Hub's proposed *AI for Manufacturing: National Digital Capability Centre*, a new initiative for industry and research collaboration and commercialisation with SMEs that will drive the nation's industrial transformation. With a network of three digital capability facilities in Brisbane, Townsville and Cairns with high-value partnerships across the country, the Centre will meet the industry's huge and urgent demand to access AI skills and digital capability that is now so critical to building both Australia's sovereign manufacturing capability and the nation's role in high-value global supply chains.

The Centre offers end-to-end services in AI for Manufacturing from supporting companies to learn about AI to realising AI's commercial value. To support and accelerate this critical program, ARM Hub is seeking funding from the Federal Government's National Digital Capability Centre initiative.

As a key stakeholder in the Australian manufacturing/innovation/research ecosystem, I agree that there is widespread industry demand among SMEs and their supply chains for AI and related digital skills that the Centre offers. Further, the differentiated areas of expertise offered by the impressive partner network of the Centre has cutting-edge skills, experience, and capabilities to realise the vision for a coordinated national network of digital capability and this is evidenced by each partner's track record of returning beneficial outcomes across Australia.

I wish to provide my enthusiastic support for the application the ARM Hub is submitting to the Federal Government. I see the establishment of the *AI for Manufacturing: National Digital Capability Centre* and resulting capabilities as aligned with the objectives of the AIIA.

Yours faithfully

**RON GAUCI**  
CEO  
Phone: 0419 538722



Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources  
GPO Box 2013  
Canberra ACT 2601

14 September 2021

**Letter of Support for the Advanced Robotics for Manufacturing (ARM) Hub  
proposed AI for Manufacturing: National Digital Capability Centre**

To the Program Manager,

In my position as CEO and Managing Director of the Innovative Manufacturing CRC Ltd (IMCRC) I am aware of the ARM Hub's proposed AI for Manufacturing: National Digital Capability Centre, a new initiative for industry and research collaboration and commercialisation with SMEs that will help drive the nation's industrial transformation. With a network of three digital capability facilities in Brisbane, Townsville and Cairns, and together with high-value partnerships across the country, the Centre will help meet the industry's significant and urgent demand to access AI skills and digital capability that is now so critical to building both Australia's sovereign manufacturing capability and the nation's role in high-value global supply chains.

The Centre offers end-to-end services in AI for Manufacturing from supporting companies to learn about AI to realising AI's commercial value. To support and accelerate this program, the ARM Hub is seeking funding from the Federal Government's National Digital Capability Centre initiative.

As a key stakeholder in the Australian manufacturing, innovation and collaborative research ecosystem, I agree that there is increasing industry demand among SMEs and their supply chains for AI and related digital skills that the Centre offers. Further, the differentiated areas of expertise offered by the partner network of the Centre has cross-cutting skills, experience, and capabilities needed to realise the vision for a coordinated national network of digital capability, and this is evidenced by each partner's track record of returning beneficial outcomes across Australia.

I wish to provide IMCRC's support for the application the ARM Hub is submitting to the Federal Government. I complement the Federal Government on their strategy to invest in such Centres, and I see the establishment of the AI for Manufacturing: National Digital Capability Centre and resulting capabilities as a key element of the strategy to develop and deliver cross-cutting capabilities and enablers to drive the growth of multiple industry sectors, including in alignment with the National Manufacturing Priorities.

It should be noted and declared that IMCRC holds no equity or financial interest in the ARM Hub and is not engaged in a Director or Officer capacity. Further IMCRC holds no equity or financial interest in other shareholders in the ARM Hub including Urban Art Projects and the Queensland State Government.

For completeness however the following should be noted:

- The ARM Hub was formed from an initial collaboration between Urban Art Projects and QUT, facilitated by the manufacturing research project co-funded by the IMCRC. IMCRC cash was utilised to fund research activities however, and not for the ARM Hub itself.
- The ARM Hub is a licensee of IMCRC's proprietary futuremap® SME education and engagement platform, and IMCRC has an agreement in place to provide both cash and in-

kind support to the ARM Hub to initiate the ARM Hub's business development and manufacturing SME engagement capability following the ARM Hub's formation.

- Professor Roy Green is Chair of the ARM Hub and also a non-remunerated Director of IMCRC.
- I am a non-remunerated member of the ARM Hub's Advisory and Research Committee, and further I hold no personal equity nor financial interest in the ARM Hub.

Should any further details be required from IMCRC in support of this grant application, we will be happy to assist.

With thanks,



**David Chuter**

CEO and Managing Director  
+61 413 884267  
david.chuter@imcrc.org

**About the Innovative Manufacturing CRC (IMCRC)**

IMCRC is an industry-led, for impact cooperative research centre with a vision for Australian manufacturing to be thriving, relevant and globally integrated. Through collaborative investment, research impact and innovation, we help transform Australian companies, particularly manufacturing SMEs. Working with industry and by investing \$40m of Commonwealth funding over our term to 2022, we have been driving so far around \$225m of investment in innovative manufacturing and Industry 4.0 R&D projects as well as SME engagement and education programs. More at [www.imcrc.org](http://www.imcrc.org)

About IMCRC's manufacturing research project from 2017 – 2022 with Urban Art Projects, QUT and RMIT that led as an outcome to the formation of the ARM Hub, see <https://www.imcrc.org/2017/07/12/design-robotics-for-mass-customisation-manufacturing/> and <https://www.imcrc.org/2019/03/13/urban-art-projects/>





21/09/2021

Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources  
GPO Box 2013  
Canberra ACT 2601

To the Program Manager,

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[www.iot.org.au](http://www.iot.org.au)

Industry Hub, 81-87 Broadway, Ultimo NSW 2007

On behalf of the IoTAA, I wish to provide my enthusiastic support for the application the ARM Hub is submitting to the Federal Government. I see the establishment of the *AI for Manufacturing: National Digital Capability Centre* and resulting capabilities as fundamental in industry collaboration and co-development of standards, joint skill development, sharing sustainable learnings, and forming mutually beneficial connections for the benefit of Australian Manufacturing.

Yours sincerely,



Frank Zeichner  
CEO, IoT Alliance Australia  
[frank.zeichner@iot.org.au](mailto:frank.zeichner@iot.org.au)



Darren Hungerford  
Chair, IoTAA Manufacturing Workstream  
[darren.hungerford@iot.org.au](mailto:darren.hungerford@iot.org.au)

Industry Hub, Level 3, 81-87 Broadway  
Ultimo 2007  
+61 408 233 762



[www.iot.org.au](http://www.iot.org.au)

Industry Hub, 81-87 Broadway, Ultimo NSW 2007



ARM Hub Learning Factory  
53 Holland Street,  
Northgate,  
QLD 4013,  
Australia

30<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Cori,

**Re: Letter of support for “AI for Manufacturing: National Digital Capability Centre” partnership proposal**

Microsoft is pleased to provide support for ARM Hub’s proposal to partner in submission for the Department of Industry’s Digital Capability Centre EOI.

Microsoft enables digital transformation for the era of an intelligent cloud and an intelligent edge. Its mission is to empower every person and every organisation on the planet to achieve more. In addition, the [Microsoft Cloud for Manufacturing](#) is designed to deliver capabilities that support the core processes and requirements of the Manufacturing industry. This includes currently released and new capabilities that seamlessly connect people, assets, workflow and business processes, empowering organisations to be more resilient.

In reviewing the offer of partnership from ARMHub, the management of Microsoft recognises three tenets that are intrinsically bound to the proposal:

1. The vision for Queensland and Australia to be recognised as a world leading advanced manufacturing nation powered by AI and digital technologies
2. The mission to catalyse Australia’s creation and adoption of AI as a cross-cutting enabler for manufacturing and high skill, high productivity jobs across industry sectors
3. The goal to scale digitally enabled SMEs by activating global supply chains and leveraging Queensland’s established innovation ecosystem as part of a national network of Digital Capability Centres



Microsoft is already a first party provider of trusted technology and infrastructure solutions to several of Australia's manufacturing and industrial companies who have been identified by ARMHub as the focus for this partnership. Microsoft has and continues to invest in advanced technologies such as Holographic devices, Digital Twin and IOT/OT capabilities that are fundamental to the transformation of the manufacturing sector and build at cloud scale.

Microsoft also facilitates digital transformation in our society by investing in the development of our partner network – born-in-the-cloud solution providers, innovators, and services firms, ensuring a rich ecosystem of technology suppliers providing capacity, capability, and choice.

We have been engaging in several discussions with ARMHub, regarding the intent of the partnership and the impact we seek to deliver and have been impressed with several aspects of ARM Hub's vision for this opportunity:

1. Always seek to partner with and work closely with industry customers to ensure any solutions developed have direct and immediate impact. Not to get caught in innovation for the sake of innovation, ensure everything we partner on has a purpose and real-world application.
2. To promote and support a diverse and inclusive manufacturing industry within Australia.
3. Ensuring that our impact is always aligned to empowering the people and skills needed in the Manufacturing sector – we aim to develop better tools for people to be successful, not to replace them.
4. Apply the power of Artificial intelligence, advanced computing, and cloud scale resources to deliver value and impact to the Australian economy.
5. Deliver economic growth, new skills, and a modern globally ready manufacturing industry for Australia.

We intend to work with ARMHub through our Technical Specialists, Microsoft Partner Network, Microsoft for Start-ups and other relevant teams to help ARMHub deliver on the vision to become a globally recognised centre for Advanced manufacturing. This may include:

- Technical guidance and skilling regarding Microsoft Azure, a secure cloud platform compliant and ready for IOT/OT/Industrial data.
- Technical guidance and skilling regarding Microsoft 365, an enterprise productivity, communications, and collaboration platform.
- Technical guidance and skilling regarding Microsoft Azure Machine Learning, a platform that facilitates the machine learning and artificial intelligence; and/or
- access to specialist technical, partner and industry resources;



We share the vision of the ARMHub ambition to modernise manufacturing processes to make the best use of AI, Digital Twins and Mixed Reality technology and believe that the combination of Microsoft's technology, with ARMHub's skills will complement each other and work towards a strong economic future for Australia.

Yours sincerely,

Lee Hickin

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "L. Hickin", written in a cursive style.

National Chief Technology Officer

Microsoft Australia

[lhickin@microsoft.com](mailto:lhickin@microsoft.com)

+61 438 278341



6th September 2021

Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources  
GPO Box 2013  
Canberra ACT 2601

To the Program Manager,

**Support for ARM Hub's proposed *AI for Manufacturing: National Digital Capability Centre***

The Townsville Cyber Security Innovation Node is a partnership between the Townsville City Council and AustCyber to accelerate the growth of Townsville's cyber security sector in alignment with AustCyber's national mission. The partnership is an important step in the advancement of the cyber security industry in the region. Growth in the cyber sector has been identified as a key initiative in the digital transformation of the region, touching every business from advanced manufacturing, defence, supply chain and logistics industries.

In my position as Chief Operations Officer of Smart Precinct NQ and the Townsville AustCyber Cyber Innovation Node Manager I am aware of the ARM Hub's proposed *AI for Manufacturing: National Digital Capability Centre*, a new program of industry and research commercialisation for SMEs and their supply chains, which will drive the nation's industrial transformation. With a network of three digital capability facilities and high-value partnerships across the country, including Townsville, the Centre will meet industry's huge and urgent demand to access AI skills and capability, including Cyber Security capability, that is so critical to building our sovereign capability and securing our place in high-value global supply chains.

As part of the NDCC program, Smart Precinct NQ and the Townsville Cyber Security Innovation Node will partner with the *AI for Manufacturing: National Digital Capability Centre* to establish a Cyber Centre of Excellence in Townsville.

The activation of a Cyber Centre of Excellence in Townsville will support research, cyber resilience and development opportunities for the growing and high-risk areas of cyber security including IOT, IIOT and Autonomous Operations and national, industrial, and commercial resilience to sovereign and commercially based cyber security attacks across critical infrastructure and supply chains.

A Cyber Security Centre of Excellence would :

- Foster research and collaboration between Universities and Industry on security technologies and protection controls of Advanced Manufacturing, Robotics, IOT and IIOT including commercialisation and export.
- Provide integrated work experience for students and research to develop cyber security skills and obtain industry relevant integrated work experience building cyber security capability in the region.



- Develop cyber security maturity and resilience for businesses in high priority areas of defence, advanced manufacturing, renewables, ag tech and med tech.
- Establish a new cyber industry to be developed in Northern Australia including up to 200 jobs in direct cyber career pathways.

We will leverage the NDCC research partnerships and ability to practically engage industry in upskilling the workforce as well as research translation and commercialisation. The first step we will undertake is to bring a roundtable together of industry stakeholders that have already expressed interest in such as Centre of Excellence, namely:

- Defence, with its operation and manufacture of land and sea autonomous vehicles
- Defence Industry Hub
- James Cook University, Central Queensland University and Tafe
- Advanced Manufacturing and Mining Industry Partners
- Townsville City Council and the Regional Organisation of Councils
- Disaster Resilience Hub
- Townsville Advanced Manufacturing Hub

I wish to provide my enthusiastic support for the application the ARM Hub is submitting to the Federal Government. I welcome you to contact me if you require further information on email at [miranda@austcyber.com](mailto:miranda@austcyber.com) or on phone at 0401 716 731.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M Mears".

Miranda Mears

COO, Smart Precinct NQ

AustCyber Townsville Cyber Innovation Node Manager

0401 716 731

[miranda@spnq.org](mailto:miranda@spnq.org)



6th September 2021

Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources  
GPO Box 2013  
Canberra ACT 2601

To the Program Manager,

**Support for ARM Hub's proposed *AI for Manufacturing: National Digital Capability Centre***

The Townsville Cyber Security Innovation Node is a partnership between the Townsville City Council and AustCyber to accelerate the growth of Townsville's cyber security sector in alignment with AustCyber's national mission. The partnership is an important step in the advancement of the cyber security industry in the region. Growth in the cyber sector has been identified as a key initiative in the digital transformation of the region, touching every business from advanced manufacturing, defence, supply chain and logistics industries.

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- Defence Industry Hub
- James Cook University, Central Queensland University and TAFE
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Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M Mears".

Miranda Mears

COO, Smart Precinct NQ

AustCyber Townsville Cyber Innovation Node Manager

0401 716 731

[miranda@spnq.org](mailto:miranda@spnq.org)



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**Sun Metals Corporation Pty Ltd** ABN 97 074 241 982  
1 Zinc Avenue, Stuart  
Townsville Queensland 4811 Australia  
PMB10 Townsville MC, Queensland, 4810  
Telephone: + 61 7 4726 6666  
Facsimile: + 61 7 4726 6300  
Email: admin@sunmetals.com.au  
Web: www.sunmetals.com.au

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September 28, 2021

Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources  
GPO Box 2013  
Canberra ACT 2601

To the Program Manager,

**Support for ARM Hub's proposed *AI for Manufacturing: National Digital Capability Centre***

The ARM Hub's proposed *AI for Manufacturing: National Digital Capability Centre*, will provide a much-needed centre for industry and research collaboration and commercialisation that will drive the nation's industrial transformation. With a network of three digital capability facilities in Brisbane, Townsville and Cairns with high-value partnerships across the country, the Centre will meet the industry's huge and urgent demand to access AI skills and digital capability that is now so critical to building both Australia's sovereign manufacturing capability and the nation's role in high-value global supply chains.

The Centre offers end-to-end services in AI for Manufacturing from supporting companies to learn about AI to realising AI's commercial value. To support and accelerate this critical program, ARM Hub is seeking funding from the Federal Government's National Digital Capability Centre initiative.

The Sun Metals Zinc Refinery, built in 1996, is located 15km south of the city of Townsville in North Queensland, Australia. Sun Metals employs over 350 staff, contracts mostly from the local community, and is a key player in significant supply chains that support local industry in this regional community as well as other parts of Australia. As one of only two zinc refineries in Australia, and with a significant regional footprint, Sun Metals is committed to showing leadership in its operations. Our mission is to be the safest, most environmentally responsible, and most competitive zinc refinery in the world.

Increasing productivity, digitisation and automation is key to our continued success, global competitiveness, jobs, and contribution to the economy. Such a large and complex operation requires innovative approaches to data and digitisation including optimisation through networked approaches and AI.

We have commenced our journey to digitisation in collaboration with ARM Hub with projects to de-risk plant automation as well as joining the ARM Hub leveraged QUT bid for an Industrial Transformation Research Hub for Digital Manufacturing. We seek to further this collaboration and to leverage opportunities that an ARM Hub led National Digital Capability Centre can bring to our company, the region and supply chains, including:

- research and commercialisation of AI and digitisation frameworks that can improve productivity available through existing assets, enable complex decision making and predictive capabilities.
- A coordinated network with cutting edge skills, experience, and capabilities to draw from as needed and in alignment with business priorities and strategies.
- Supply chain innovation initiatives that build AI capability throughout key supply chains, further increasing productivity outcomes for the region and the nation.
- Workforce capability programs to expand the skills of the regional workforce and attract the next generation of technology workers to regional manufacturing.

On behalf of Sun Metals, I wish to provide my keen support for the application the ARM Hub is submitting to the Federal Government. I see the establishment of the *AI for Manufacturing: National Digital Capability Centre* and resulting capabilities as fundamental to the modernisation of key industries and supply chains in Australia, growing manufacturing as critical to Australia's economic prosperity into the future.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Pope

Sun Metals Corporation Pty Ltd

Director of Innovation

15 October 2021

Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources  
GPO Box 2013  
Canberra ACT 2601

To the Program Manager,

**Support for ARM Hub's proposed *AI for Manufacturing: National Digital Capability Centre***

In my position as CEO of the Tech Council of Australia I am aware of the ARM Hub's proposed *AI for Manufacturing: National Digital Capability Centre*, a new initiative for industry and research collaboration and commercialisation with SMEs that will drive the nation's industrial transformation. With a network of three digital capability facilities in Brisbane, Townsville and Cairns with high-value partnerships across the country, the Centre will meet the industry's huge and urgent demand to access AI skills and digital capability that is now so critical to building both Australia's sovereign manufacturing capability and the nation's role in high-value global supply chains.

The Centre offers end-to-end services in AI for Manufacturing from supporting companies to learn about AI to realising AI's commercial value. To support and accelerate this critical program, ARM Hub is seeking funding from the Federal Government's National Digital Capability Centre initiative.

As a key stakeholder in the Australian innovation ecosystem, I agree that there is widespread industry demand among SMEs and their supply chains for AI and related digital skills that the Centre offers. Further, the differentiated areas of expertise offered by the impressive partner network of the Centre has cutting-edge skills, experience, and capabilities to realise the vision for a coordinated national network of digital capability and this is evidenced by each partner's track record of returning beneficial outcomes across Australia.

I wish to provide my enthusiastic support for the application the ARM Hub is submitting to the Federal Government. I see the establishment of the *AI for Manufacturing: National Digital Capability Centre* and resulting capabilities as a critical piece in building both Australia's tech sector production and export capabilities, and also accelerating tech adoption amongst Australian businesses.

Yours sincerely,



CEO  
Tech Council of Australia

28 September 2021

Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources  
GPO Box 2013  
Canberra ACT 2601

To the Program Manager

**Support for ARM Hub's proposed *AI for Manufacturing: National Digital Capability Centre***

Townsville Enterprise is the peak Economic Development organisation, Regional Tourism Organisation and Convention Bureau for Townsville North Queensland. It is a not-for-profit, apolitical, membership-based organisation that exists to connect, grow and promote Townsville North Queensland. Key areas of the organisation focus on Tourism and Events, Investment Attraction, Business Development and Advocacy in line with the Townsville Enterprise Limited Strategic Plan. We have recently completed our annual 1000km road trip to Unlock the North, driving strategic opportunities from Mt Isa to Townsville.

Townsville Enterprise is aware of the ARM Hub's proposed *AI for Manufacturing: National Digital Capability Centre*, a new program of industry and research collaboration and commercialisation for SMEs and their supply chains, which will drive the nation's industrial transformation. With a network of three digital capability facilities and high-value partnerships across the country, including Townsville and Cairns. The Centre will meet industry's huge and urgent demand to access AI and Industry 4.0 skills and capability that is so critical to building our sovereign industry capability and securing our place in high-value global supply chains.

As part of the NDCC program, Townsville Enterprise Limited will partner with the *AI for Manufacturing: National Digital Capability Centre* to establish strategic clusters of Northern Australian activity around priority industries and global supply chains. Townsville Enterprise Limited will leverage the NDCC research partnerships and ability to practically engage industry in upskilling the workforce as well as research translation and commercialisation.

The first steps we will take to support the work of the ARM Hub is:

- Engage ARM hub in the strategic policy processes with industry about growing industrial AI and digital capabilities in the region across both established and future industries
- Assist the ARM Hub to coordinate business in the region by introducing them to relevant companies and supply chains
- Invest in strategic programs that become flagship demonstrators for industry, encouraging increased safe and responsible development and application of AI, standards and regulation, and digital transformation processes for businesses.

380 Flinders Street  
PO Box 1043 Townsville  
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**P** +61 7 4726 2728  
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The logo for Townsville Enterprise, featuring a stylized sunburst icon above the text "townsville enterprise" in a lowercase, sans-serif font.

ABN 58 053 020 536

The key industry sectors we will prioritise with the ARM Hub are:

- Critical minerals and mining
- Clean Energy
- Advanced fabrication
- Agriculture

Townsville Enterprise Limited strongly supports the application the ARM Hub is submitting to the Federal Government and wishes them all the best with this application.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Brumme-Smith".

Claudia Brumme-Smith  
Chief Executive Officer

11 February 2022

Department of Industry, Science, Energy & Resources  
GPO Box 2013  
Canberra ACT 2601

To the Program Manager,

**Support for ARM Hub's proposed *AI for Manufacturing: National Digital Capability Centre***

In my position as Managing Director of the Advanced Manufacturing Growth Centre (AMGC), I am highly supportive of the ARM Hub's proposed *AI for Manufacturing: National Digital Capability Centre (NDCC)*, a new initiative for industry and research collaboration with SMEs that will drive the nation's industrial transformation. Comprising a network of three digital capability facilities in Brisbane, Townsville and Cairns with deeply engaged partners across the country, the Centre will meet the industry's increasingly urgent need for AI skills and digital capability which are critical to building Australia's sovereign capability and the commercialisation of local inputs into high-value global supply chains.

AMGC is Australia's leading manufacturing industry body delivering education and co-investment programs that catalyse strategic high-value commercial outcomes. The purpose of AMGC is to transform Australian Manufacturing to be more globally competitive and generate the demand for jobs.

AMGC will partner with the NDCC to deliver a competitive \$2M *Made with AI Commercialisation Investment Program*. We will leverage an additional \$4M from industry (\$2M cash and \$2M in-kind) and provide our services, and expertise in grant management capability in kind towards this critical program. Furthermore, AMGC will engage with our growing and comprehensive membership of 650 Queensland and near 4000 Australian members to promote, identify and deliver the most transformative AI projects for local industry, successfully creating national and internationally relevant flagship projects for the Centre that demonstrate SMEs adoption and commercialisation of AI.

As a key stakeholder in the Australian manufacturing ecosystems, I know there is widespread industry demand among SMEs and their supply chains for AI, and related digital skills that the Centre offers. AMGC is acutely aware that AI represents the greatest sustained value-add for the manufacturing industry yet, Australian companies lag in both creating new AI products and services, and adopting AI into their businesses. The *Made with AI Commercialisation Investment Program*, alongside the other programs offered by the Centre and AMGC, will deliver the step change needed to spur wider adoption across the industry.

AMGC is proud to partner with the Centre in the delivery of its vision and we wish to provide our enthusiastic support to the proposal ARM Hub is submitting to the State and Federal Governments for the establishment of the Centre.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Jens Goennemann  
Managing Director  
Advanced Manufacturing Growth Centre Ltd.



QUEENSLAND DEFENCE  
SCIENCE ALLIANCE

4th February 2022

Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources  
GPO Box 2013  
Canberra ACT 2601

To the Program Manager,

**Support for proposed AI for Manufacturing: National Digital Capability Centre**

As Acting Director of the Queensland Defence Science Alliance (QDSA) I'm pleased to provide a letter of support for the proposed AI for Manufacturing National Digital Capability Centre. I see potential for such a centre to be utilised by QDSA members, both Universities and industry, to advance technology of interest to Defence.

I would be interested in exploring future opportunities to align collaborative research grants offered by QDSA with accelerator programs in the centre that have a defence application, for example, command and control, threat detection, surveillance, navigation and cyber. Through this alignment there is real potential to attract further investment from Defence.

Yours sincerely,



QUEENSLAND DEFENCE  
SCIENCE ALLIANCE

**Dr Jeremy Anderson**

Acting Director

**m:** [0409 836 010](tel:0409836010)

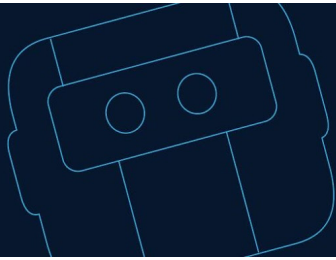
**p:** 07 3735 8087

**e:** [jeremy.anderson@queenslanddefencesciencealliance.com.au](mailto:jeremy.anderson@queenslanddefencesciencealliance.com.au)

**w:** [queenslanddefencesciencealliance.com.au](http://queenslanddefencesciencealliance.com.au)







6 May 2022

AusIndustry  
Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources  
GPO Box 2013  
Canberra ACT 2601

To the Program Manager,

***Support for ARM Hub AI and Digital Capability Centre project: -Application Reference Number AIDCC000034***

This letter confirms Robotics Australia Group's support for the AI and Digital Capability Centres project outlined for ARM Hub AI and Digital Capability Centre as follows:

Applicant organisation name	ARM Hub Ltd
Application reference number	AIDCC000034
Project name	ARM Hub AI and Digital Capability Centre

I am aware of the ARM Hub's proposed *AI and Digital Capability Centres project* as a new initiative for industry and research collaboration and commercialisation with SMEs that will drive the nation's industrial transformation. With a network of three digital capability facilities in Brisbane, Townsville and Cairns with high-value partnerships across the country and internationally, the Centre will meet the industry's huge and urgent demand to access AI skills and digital capability that is now so critical to building both Australia's sovereign manufacturing capability and the nation's role in high-value global supply chains.

As a key stakeholder in the Australian innovation ecosystem, I agree that there is widespread industry demand among SMEs and their supply chains for AI and related digital skills as well as support to access global market opportunities that the Centre offers. Further, the differentiated areas of expertise offered by the impressive partner network of the Centre has cutting-edge skills, experience, and capabilities to realise the vision for a coordinated national network of digital capability and this is evidenced by each partner's track record of returning beneficial outcomes across Australia.

Robotics Australia Group (RAG) will deliver four high-value demonstration events across Australia that represent best practice and are embedded within company's

premises or sites. Each demonstration event will be produced in collaboration with the Centre and will comprise a physical and online/digital product as well as a written Centre case study exemplifying the successful AI transformation journey of the selected business. These demonstrator events will be in the AI DCC priority industry sectors namely defence, medical, food and beverage and clean energy technologies.

The RAG team will execute this component of the overall project under the guidance of the RAG Board, which comprises leaders with extensive experience in robotics and autonomous systems enablement; the integration of robotics into industry, academia and the creation and growth of SMEs. Further detail on the Board members can be found at <https://roboausnet.com.au/about/our-board/>.

The nominated management level contact officer for this project is Nicole Ireland, General Manager, [nicole.ireland@roboausnet.com.au](mailto:nicole.ireland@roboausnet.com.au).

Yours sincerely,



Name	Dr Sue Keay
Position title	Chairperson
Date	6 May 2020



AusIndustry  
Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources  
GPO Box 2013  
Canberra ACT 2601

To the Program Manager,

**Support for ARM Hub AI and Digital Capability Centre project-Application Reference Number AIDCC000034**

This letter confirms management support for the AI and Digital Capability Centres project outlined for ARM Hub AI and Digital Capability Centre as follows:

Applicant organisation name	ARM Hub Ltd
Application reference number	AIDCC000034
Project name	ARM Hub AI and Digital Capability Centre

I am aware of the ARM Hub's proposed *AI and Digital Capability Centres project* as a new initiative for industry and research collaboration and commercialisation with SMEs that will drive the nation's industrial transformation. With a network of digital capability facilities in Brisbane and North Queensland with high-value partnerships across the country and internationally, the Centre will meet the industry's huge and urgent demand to access AI skills and digital capability that is now so critical to building both Australia's sovereign manufacturing capability and the nation's role in high-value global supply chains.

As a key stakeholder in the applied research ecosystem, I agree that there is widespread industry demand among SMEs and their supply chains for AI and related digital skills as well as support to access global market opportunities that the Centre offers. Further, the differentiated areas of expertise offered by the impressive partner network of the Centre has cutting-edge skills, experience, and capabilities to realise the vision for a coordinated national network of digital capability and this is evidenced by each partner's track record of returning beneficial outcomes across Australia.

Following is an outline of the relevant experience and/or expertise the Australian Research Council's Industrial Training Centre in Collaborative Robotics for Advanced Manufacturing (known as the Australian Robotics Centre - ACC) will bring to the group:

- Support AIDCC in delivering its first Collaborators Forum in December 2022 leveraging the Australasian Conference on Robotics and Automation that is being hosted by the ACC.



- Offer expertise in new frontiers for industry's improved use and affordability of Collaborative Robotics solutions.
- Assist the AIDCC showcase their successes through ACC public seminars, government and industry briefings, industry publications and social media.
- ACC will work with AIDCC and their industry network when ACC creates new skills development activities in the areas of robotics and automation, particularly for SMEs.

The nominated management level contact officer for this project is:

Professor Jonathan Roberts – Queensland University of Technology  
 Australian Cobotics Centre, Director  
 ARM Hub Technical Director  
 Email: jonathan.roberts@qut.edu.au

Yours sincerely,



Name	Jonathan Roberts
Position title	Director of Australian Cobotics Centre
Date	10 May 2022

