

# Smarter Regions CRC

Competitive  
Connected  
Smart  
Productive

PROSPECTUS  
May 2020



Smarter **Regions**

# Contents

<u>The Opportunity</u>	3
<u>Our Vision</u>	4
<u>What is a CRC?</u>	5
<u>Research Programs</u>	6
<u>Value Proposition and Partner Benefits</u>	11
<u>Education and Training Program</u>	12
<u>Alignment with National Priorities and Growth Centres</u>	13
<u>Governance and Management</u>	14
<u>Intellectual Property (IP) and Commercialisation</u>	15
<u>Participant Investment</u>	16
<u>Next Steps / More Information</u>	17

# The Opportunity

The Australian AI Roadmap, published by the Australian Government in November 2019, and codeveloped by CSIRO's Data61 and the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science, identifies that smart technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), machine learning, automation and advanced sensors can supercharge the Australian economy. This Smarter Regions CRC will support regional businesses and industries to make a quantum shift to globally leading technology originators and adopters.

Regions are our focus because they are the engine room of the Australian economy and exports. Regions account for:

- Approximately 67% of the value of Australia's exports (National Rural Health Alliance)
- 30% of the population (ABS 2017)
- Approximately 1/3 of Australia's GDP.

Regional based industry sectors such as agriculture, forestry and fisheries attract \$40 billion in export income (around 13% of total export income) and contribute 12% (\$150 billion) to GDP and employ 330,000 people in regional Australia. The mining sector contributes around 8.5% to Australia's GDP and employs about 250,000 people. More and more, these sectors are supported by highly skilled professionals in engineering, manufacturing, professional services, education and training.

If it were a separate country, regional Australia's economy – worth almost \$600 billion would be placed 22 in the world, similar to that of Taiwan or Poland. For example:

- Agriculture, forestry and fisheries attract \$40 billion in export income and contribute 12% (\$150 billion) to GDP and employ 330,000 people in regional Australia
- The resources sector contributes around 8.5% to Australia's GDP and employs about 250,000 people.

Regional Australians face different opportunities and challenges compared to urban Australians. They are more heavily exposed to international competition which means that they must achieve high efficiencies to compete with other, lower wage countries. It can be more difficult to attract and retain skilled workers which limits the growth potential of exporting industry sectors. Its remoteness and lack of IT infrastructure makes the adoption of high tech services a greater challenge.

## Why a Technology Platform CRC?

The Smarter Regions CRC is a response to the documented limitations of the current sectorial-focused approach to developing and implementing smart technologies in regional Australia. This approach has not created the critical mass and cross-sectoral learning required to underpin widespread uptake, skill development and employment in the regions needed to maintain global competitiveness in these new technologies.

The Smarter Regions CRC will provide platform outputs that can be customised and applied to a broad range of regional industries. The use of showcase regions will demonstrate how to lift the competitiveness and productivity of a whole region, providing inspiration and exemplars of change for other regions.

## Smarter Regions and COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic will seismically reshape the global economic order. Many companies or producers will not survive and those that do will need to find new markets to rebuild their revenue streams. This will give rise to an era of hyper-competition for Australian companies and producers, and potentially one-in-a-generation opportunities to gain market share when Australia is able to emerge from the crisis faster than most other countries.

The participants of the Smarter Regions CRC understand that they need to dramatically increase their ability to develop and deploy new technologies to thrive in this new landscape.

The Smarter Regions CRC is about making regional Australia fit-to-fight and to ensure that it cannot only defend its economic position, but can diversify and take new markets. In this context Australia faces a stark choice - be a proactive player in this disruption and help ensure Regional Australia is capable of seizing the opportunities created by COVID-19 - or be a passive player and continue to allow the world to dictate our position.

## Showcase Regions

A showcase region will be where solutions can be live tested and demonstrated to prospective customers.

The Smarter Regions CRC is seeking expression of interests from regions to help showcase the application of technologies developed by the CRC. These regions will have a critical mass of participants in the CRC and include regional representative participants (such as their local RDA, Council, Growers Groups and / or health region). The density of participants from the region will be a determinative factor in the region becoming a Showcase Region".

# Our Vision

The vision of the Smarter Regions CRC is to position regional Australia as a global leader in the creation and adoption of smart technologies.

We will achieve this by targeting agile, optimistic, forward thinking businesses and organisations that drive our economic prosperity, in those sectors where we already have competitive advantage, consistent with the AI Roadmap. Our vision is ambitious, but this CRC has enormous potential to change operational and business models for regional Australia in a globally competitive environment, and to deliver benefits for regional communities.

The Smarter Regions CRC will also be focusing Australia's research efforts in artificial intelligence and smart technologies to address issues that are very relevant to regional Australia.

This includes sparse populations, long distances, limited connectivity and aggressive environments.

A Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) is a proven mechanism for building Australian capability and growing our economy through research-inspired innovation and knowledge creation via close collaborations between Australian industries and Australian research communities.

Smarter Regions CRC has been established so regional communities and industries of Australia can share the upside of these powerful new technologies.



# What is a CRC?

Government funding is being targeted through the CRC Program, the largest and most sought-after grant funding program for industry in Australia.

The CRC Program is a significant component of the national innovation system that supports medium to long-term collaboration between the producers and end-users of research. Funding for CRCs typically ranges between \$25 million to \$60 million for each CRC – this number is highly dependent on the amount of industry cash funding secured by the CRC and the scale of the task.

The Australian government has funded more than 221 CRCs and committed more than \$4.4B. The aim of the CRC Program is to build critical mass in research between industry and researchers which tackle major challenges to drive a step-change in industry and deliver significant benefits to Australian industry.

## The program aims to:

- Improve the competitiveness, productivity and sustainability of Australian industries, especially in those sectors where Australia has a competitive strength, and in line with Government priorities.
- Foster high quality research to solve industry-identified problems through industry-led and outcome focussed collaborative research partnerships between industry entities and research organisations.
- Encourage and facilitate small and medium (SME) participation in collaborative research.

# CRC Research Programs

The Smarter Regions CRC research agenda is industry-led and will continuously be developed in the lead up to submission. The Bid Team has already conducted a number of industry workshops and one-on-one consultations with a broad range of stakeholders.

The Smarter Regions CRC's research partners bring together world leading multi-disciplinary expertise and include:

University of Adelaide  
University of Tasmania  
University of the Sunshine Coast  
Queensland University of Technology  
University of Sydney  
University of Western Australia  
University of Wollongong  
Charles Sturt University  
La Trobe University

This capability will be deployed to deliver projects and outputs that will combine to build new national capacity, new solutions and to transform Australian regional economies and communities.

The Smarter Regions CRC will better enable regional Australian businesses to thrive locally in the 21st Century economy through four integrated research programs:

#### COMPETITIVE REGIONS - SUPPORTING ADOPTION OF SMART TECHNOLOGIES

Business and governance models, standards, infrastructure, skills development, community and consumer acceptance that builds trust and drives value in new smart systems.

#### CONNECTED REGIONS - INTEGRATED SENSING SYSTEMS

Integrated network systems with new and legacy sensors that can act as one, cost-effectively collecting performance information for regional and remote communities and businesses.

#### SMART REGIONS - DECISION, PREDICTION AND RECOMMENDATION SYSTEMS

Software systems that interact easily with humans to translate data into advice on how to optimise operations in remote and regional environments, communities and industries.

#### PRODUCTIVE REGIONS - AUTONOMOUS TECHNOLOGIES

AI driven robotics, navigation and automation systems designed for specifically to improve workplace safety and job satisfaction and drive high value and productivity in regional industries.



# PROGRAM 1:

## COMPETITIVE REGIONS - SUPPORTING ADOPTION OF SMART TECHNOLOGIES

Numerous studies have identified a lack of confidence and capability around technology adoption as a key reason why Australia is falling behind in the artificial intelligence race. This research program tackles this problem head on by developing tools and systems that promote confidence in the adoption of artificial intelligence and other smart technologies. Program 1 is designed to ensure regional organisations are able to leap-frog their international competitors by adopting new business and governance models, standards, infrastructure, skills development approaches, and build community trust and consumer acceptance.

---

### OUTPUT 1.1 – TECHNOLOGY DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

---

This output will provide a framework for organisations looking to introduce transformational technologies in their operations. This framework will inform the governance, consultation and implementation process to maximise social trust and acceptance of the technologies. It will consider both internal best practices, as well as any structural changes in the business ecosystem, new standards, new skills required, and emerging trust frameworks.

---

### OUTPUT 1.2 – DECISION-SUPPORT TOOL FOR SELECTING APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGIES.

---

This output will provide a decision-support tool for regional industry to optimise their economic return on investment in specific technologies to deploy, helping them compare the impact of individual technologies. It will allow industries to consider 1) the range of available technologies and 2) their economic viability. This tool will also assist in understanding the viability gaps in existing technologies and help shape developments in other programs.

---

### OUTPUT 1.3 – MODEL TO ASSESS THE IMPACT OF SMART TECHNOLOGIES ON REGIONAL INDUSTRIES, BUSINESSES, AND COMMUNITIES.

---

This output will provide a broad understanding of the impact of new technologies on regional economies and is targeted at councils and state government agencies. It will analyse the impact of technologies, such as AI, on job markets, including their capacity to improve the wellbeing of industries and communities. The output will explore emerging business models and report on case studies of organisations successful in implementing new technologies, including identifying showcase regions in Australia.

# PROGRAM 2: CONNECTED REGIONS - INTEGRATED SENSING NETWORK SYSTEMS

This program will develop sensors and systems of sensors that operate in an entirely new way, that collect and process information using less processing power, that can operate in low band-width environments, and combining sensor data from multiple sensors to create a single understanding of the operational environment of regional businesses and organisations. The integration framework will self-organise to collect, understand and integrate data from any hardware, using any operational system. These will be first in their class sensor systems that are low cost, robust and plug and play easily across different operational systems so that low skilled workers can easily deploy and manage them. The result will be businesses with vastly improved performance metrics and insights that can be used to generate huge improvements in productivity and safety.

---

## OUTPUT 2.1 – NEW COMMERCIALY-VIABLE SENSORS

---

This output will develop next generation sensors that can operate in the low bandwidth and low processing power environments of many remote and regional areas. These sensors are key in supporting the range of AI-enabled intelligence systems described below and will give computerised management systems an ability to 'see' their environment.

---

## OUTPUT 2.2 – SCALABLE SENSING NETWORK SYSTEM

---

This will meet the need of multiple regional industry sectors (mining, forestry, agriculture) who need to be able to integrate thousands of off-the-shelf sensors or new sensors to collect various information (environment, residence, activity) and then share this information in a way that retains commercial confidentiality and privacy. New data management systems will be required to enable this to be achieved. The integration system will require the development of a whole new capability in automated, self-assembling and self-integrating data systems, driven by machine learning. In addition, new federated data reading and sharing systems will be created so that regional industries can benefit from the collective regional data pool without disclosing commercially in confidence information.

---

## OUTPUT 2.3 – INTEGRATED PLATFORM FOR DATA VISUALISATION

---

This output is to develop integrated platforms to have a holistic view of sensor data and provide graphical user interface (GUI) tools to visualise the data, analytic information and knowledge from AI tools in other outputs. The platform will also provide a set of core services such as location service to localise sensors and detect physical objects or humans. The platform will need to consider price, data requirements, connectivity, and robustness and maintenance costs.

---

## OUTPUT 2.4 – DATA AUGMENTATION AND SIMULATION TOOLS FOR SENSORS

---

The creation of optimisation tools requires the generation of large datasets to train from. It can be too costly to achieve this in some environments, and so artificial datasets and simulations will need to be created as a part of this Program.

# PROGRAM 3: SMART REGIONS - DECISION, PREDICTION AND RECOMMENDATION SYSTEMS

At the heart of global competitive organisations and businesses in the new era is the cognitive computing capability of turning data into predictions and advice, easily and intuitively. This program will develop platforms and software that are designed to interact naturally with people and systems in regional businesses.

In this context, they will accurately analyse sparse data, integrate existing data, work in a low connectivity environment, across supply chains and understand logistical issues of remoteness.

They will have a language interface that enables workers to easily interact with the analytics capability so that both the computer and worker learn from each other and become powerful collaborative learning and operational units. The result will be that workers and managers in regional businesses will be able to interact with high performance computer models and artificial intelligence with very little training or advanced skills, massively increasing the adoption of this technology across regional Australia.

---

## OUTPUT 3.1 – VISION AND LANGUAGE INTERFACE MODULE

---

Regional Australia has many localised descriptors, terms and phrases across regions and industries. It is essential to implement smart technologies that they are intuitive and encompass regional and sectoral language differences. Different from previous existing coding-based software systems that requires highly trained personnel, the CRC will develop a vision-and-language interface that can assist in operational simplicity for workers and farmers in regional Australia to use AI tools to assist their daily work.

---

## OUTPUT 3.2 – INTERPRETABLE AI SYSTEMS FOR DECISION MAKING AND ADVICE PROVISION

---

This output is to develop business solutions and AI tools that simultaneously deliver explainability and state-of-the-art performance. It contrasts with the concept of the “black box” AI where even their designers cannot explain why the AI arrived at a specific decision. It enables growers and business owners in regional Australia to understand the rationale of AI prediction, reduce risks, build trust, encourage adaptation, and also help to keep humans ‘in the loop’ of decision making.

---

## OUTPUT 3.3 – LEARNING AND REASONING FRAMEWORK FOR SPARSE, DIGITAL UNFRIENDLY, AND MULTI-MODAL DATA

---

This output is to develop tools and framework that can learn and reason with data and knowledge that have challenging properties in regional Australia. In agriculture and mining, some key data collected are very sparse due to cost, time and other restrictions. Much data and knowledge in the regions is not digitalised (handwritten notes and receipts) or digitalised in an unfriendly way (a report being scanned and stored as images instead of texts, voice memos). Moreover, a single application may involve data and knowledge in multiple modalities (e.g. texts, images, videos, spectra, sound, database, and knowledge bases).

---

## OUTPUT 3.4 – EMBEDDED AI PLATFORM TO PUSH INTELLIGENCE TO THE EDGE OR FRONT-END

---

This output will develop advanced embedded AI models for edge servers or front-end devices. This will provide maximum user privacy protection and better real-time response. Embedded AI distributes situation based decision to the edge and make the edge more proactive and intelligent. The platform we develop will be able to detect cyber threats immediately and take the appropriate steps to mitigate any damage or potential loss of data.

---

## OUTPUT 3.5 – NEW PLUG-PLAY REASONING MODULES FOR REGIONAL INDUSTRIES

---

This output will deliver plug-play models that simply plug in to the domain knowledge and requirements and starts to reason without the need of re-training the reasoning module. These models will be easily adapted to different domains by being capable of accepting different domain knowledge and keeping the same reasoning ability learned from other domains.

# PROGRAM 4: PRODUCTIVE REGIONS - AUTONOMOUS TECHNOLOGIES

Regional and remote areas suffer from significant skills shortages that put a brake on improving safety, productivity and profitability. This program will provide a new range of robotic, navigation and automation products that utilise the outputs of programs 2 and 3. These products will need to be designed specifically for regional industries and take into account pricing, robustness and ease of operation and maintenance.

---

## OUTPUT 4.1 – FRAMEWORK FOR THE DESIGN OF ROBOTICS AND AUTOMATED SYSTEMS IN REGIONAL AUSTRALIA.

---

This output will ensure that automation systems are designed specifically for the needs of regional Australia. It will set out how to design and build automation technologies so that they are economic, robust and can be easily operated and maintained in regional Australia. In this context, this output will consider the nature of the work required, human factors, mechanical systems, materials, environments and climatic conditions as well as the inputs from potential users. This output will also call on inputs from Program 1.

---

## OUTPUT 4.2 – SIMULATION TOOLS FOR AUTOMATION

---

This output will develop AI driven digital twin simulation models of the physical automation technologies and systems. Unlike traditional digital twins that only faithfully replicate what we know, the AI driven digital twins can predict the unknown, and learn to alter and optimise the process. This will enable industries to see and experience the operations in the virtual world. Using the simulation models developed, automation technology designs can be verified, improved, and integrated to achieve optimised functionality before the physical investment is made. This output will lower the cost and risk of implementing automation technologies.

---

## OUTPUT 4.3 – COMMERCIALY-VIABLE AUTOMATION TECHNOLOGIES DESIGNED FOR REGIONAL INDUSTRIES.

---

This output will be safe, robust, reliable and cost effective automated vehicles, robots and machines that support safer and more efficient regional industries, and improves productivity in logistics systems.

---

## OUTPUT 4.4 – PREDICTIVE MAINTENANCE TOOLBOX

---

This output will develop toolboxes that incorporates sensor data and embedded AI to make sense of the collected data to monitor and track the performance of machinery including (and beyond) automation technologies. Predictive maintenance toolbox will allow the maintenance frequency to be as low as possible; therefore, minimising the time the equipment is being maintained, the cost of spare parts, and the production time lost. This toolbox also will be developed more prudent for unexpected situations that is important in current rapid environmental changes in regions.

# Value Proposition and Partner Benefits



CRCs by design are industry-led organisations. This proven framework allows industry to build on the research excellence offered by Australian research institutions.

CRC deliverables represent co-designed solutions that deliver value to industry and the Australian economy. As such, our industry partners will be instrumental in ensuring that the Smarter Regions CRC delivers the value they require.

As a platform for collaboration and funding, CRCs deliver significant generic value to its partners, including:

## Industry Benefits

- Proof of innovation concept at low cost and low risk
- Creation of new products and services
- Massively improve your competitiveness in a global marketplace
- Large and sustained improvements in profitability and productivity
- Future-proof your business
- Position your company at the leading edge
- Leveraged research funding (approximately 1:1)
- Eligibility for R&D Tax Credits (seek advice)
- Collaboration, networking and partnering
- Access to future leaders and new talent

## Researcher benefits

- Deeper engagement with industry
- Access to research funding
- Path to market for innovations
- Higher education students
- Workplace placements for students

# CRC Education and Training Program

The Education and Training program is an important element of the Smarter Regions CRC. It will develop the necessary human capital to position regional Australia at the very forefront of the creation and adoption of smart technologies, such as artificial intelligence and automation.

The Smarter Regions CRC's education and training activities will target a wide range of recipients including postgraduate and undergraduate students, industry professionals and the general public. The program will provide a systematic and integrated approach to all these levels to ensure the outputs of the Smarter Regions CRC are delivered with the maximum chance of being used and effective.

As with the research agenda, the education and training program will be designed in close consultation with professionals in the education and training sector, communities and regional industry. It will also explore new knowledge dissemination technologies to ensure that the CRC can reach its primary targets in regional and remote Australia.

## This program will include:

- PhD student training, with the vast majority involved in industry embedded projects
- Operate an industry project program for final year undergraduates
- Develop courses for upskilling employees of participant organisations
- Run conferences / theme-based seminars and public education events
- Facilitate engagement with organisations, projects and researchers overseas



# Alignment with National Priorities and Growth Centres

**Artificial Intelligence: Solving problems, growing the economy and improving our quality of life outlines the importance of action for Australia to capture the benefits of artificial intelligence (AI), estimated to be worth AU\$22.17 trillion to the global economy by 2030.**

(source: <https://data61.csiro.au/en/Our-Research/Our-Work/AI-Roadmap>)

The report identified three areas where Australia is well positioned to use artificial intelligence technologies to transform existing industries and build new ones:

- for better health, aged care and disability service – to reduce healthcare costs, improve wellbeing and make quality aged care accessible for all Australians;
- for better towns, cities and infrastructure – to improve the safety, efficiency, cost-effectiveness and quality of the built environment;
- for better natural resource management – to enhance our natural resource management, reduce the costs and improve the productivity of agriculture, fisheries, forestry and environmental management.

The Smarter Regions CRC will address all three of these areas from a regional perspective.

The Government also funds a number of Industry Growth Centres.

The Government has established six Growth Centres in sectors of competitive strength and strategic priority:

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Cyber Security
- Food and Agribusiness
- Medical Technologies and Pharmaceuticals
- Mining Equipment, Technology and Services
- Oil, Gas and Energy Resources

The Government has tasked the Growth Centres with leading cultural change in their sectors through their industry competitiveness plan. The outputs of the Smarter Regions CRC will cross over a number of the Growth Centres. The CRC Bid Team will work with all relevant Growth Centres to assist them to deliver on their respective plans.

The Australian Government has also identified nine Science and Research Priorities and associated Practical Research Challenges. The priorities, developed in consultation with leaders from industry, research and government, are designed to focus Australian Government support for science and research on the most important challenges facing Australia.

The current Science and Research Priorities are:

- Food
- Soil and Water
- Transport
- Cybersecurity
- Energy
- Resources
- Advanced Manufacturing
- Environmental Change
- Health

The Smarter Regions CRC outputs will have a very direct alignment to achieve the practical challenges under a number of these priorities, via the outcomes delivered for regional industries and communities.

# Governance and Management

## Management of the Bid

The Smarter Regions CRC bid is led by the Australian Institute for Machine Learning at the University of Adelaide

### The Bid Team is being led by:

- Ms Diana Gibbs – Foundation Chair
- Professor Javen Qinfeng Shi – Bid Development Leader & Interim Science Director
- Dr Paul Dalby – Bid Development Leader
- Mr Steven Brown – Bid Consultant.

The CRC bid process is extremely competitive. The preparation of successful CRC bids requires dedicated and specialised resources to secure partners, develop a collective research agenda, and prepare the bid documents. All prospective partners will need to share and contribute to the costs associated with preparing the bid.

The 22nd selection round has two stages. The first stage, due 29 July 2020, requires an expression of interest that must indicate potential participants and their in-principle contributions (cash plus in-kind).

## Management of the Smarter Regions CRC

The Smarter Regions CRC will be a not-for-profit, incorporated company, limited by guarantee. As such, it will operate under the Corporations Act and has adopted the governance principles of the Australian Stock Exchange Corporate Governance Council.

The Smarter Regions CRC will establish a skills-based Board of Directors to govern the Centre, with an independent Chair and a majority of independent members, as directed by CRC Program guidelines. The Board will provide oversight of the Smarter Regions CRC activities, performance and strategic direction.

The management of the CRC will be led by a Chief Executive Officer, supported by small operational and administrative team directly employed by the CRC. Program Leaders will be appointed to lead individual Programs, provided as in-kind contributions by CRC partners.

A Research Director will be appointed to Chair a Science Advisory Committee to oversee the quality of the research undertaken by the CRC.

A Commercialisation Manager will be appointed to Chair a Commercialisation Panel to focus and promote commercialisation outcomes from the CRC activities.

# Intellectual Property (IP) and Commercialisation

Smarter Regions CRC will develop and deliver a portfolio of projects for its industry participants. Every project will be governed by a project agreement which takes into account the following points:

Intellectual property will be generated and held at the Project level. Project agreements must specify how Project IP will be managed and must contain an initial plan for the intended commercialisation of that IP. This plan will aim to maximise the possibility of utilisation by the industry participants and benefit to Australia.

Background IP must be documented in the Project Agreement before any project starts. Ownership of Background IP stays with the party that provides it.

It is expected that the primary path to utilisation for Project IP will be through the Industry Participant(s) in the project.

Specific details of the ownership and access to IP from a project will be negotiated by the Project Participants at the beginning of each project.

Protection of Project IP (e.g. by patent) will be at the discretion and cost of the Industry Participant.

# Participant Investment

We are looking for investors in the Smarter Regions CRC who want to achieve one or more of the following benefits.

---

## Major Partner



Our Major Partners make a significant contribution to the objectives of the Smarter Regions CRC over a 10 year timeframe. In practice, this means a cumulative cash investment over 10 years of at least \$2 million.

Major partners are expected to invest ~\$20,000 up-front for the development costs of the CRC submission (split \$14,000 stage 1 and \$6,000 stage 2) for universities and \$15,000 (\$10,000 and \$5,000) for other Major Partners.

---

## Partner



Our Partners have a strong commitment to a particular program or project of the Smarter Regions CRC and are investing for a specific outcome. Partners make a minimum cumulative cash investment of \$250,000 or more over 10 years.

Partners make a minimum cumulative cash investment of \$250,000 or more over 10 years. Partners are expected to invest ~\$5,000 up-front for the development costs of the CRC submission (split \$3,000 stage 1 and \$2,000 stage 2).

---

## Projects



Collaborating organisations can also choose to partner with the CRC on a project by project basis. Depending on the project and its alignment with the contracted outputs of the CRC, there may also be an opportunity for leveraging further CRC investment to match the industry investment.

Project investors are expected to invest \$3,000 up-front for the development costs of the CRC (split \$2,000 stage 1 and \$1,000 stage 2).

---

## Regional Connectors

Connectors don't see direct benefit from the CRC but aim to help connect the CRC to potential industry partners within their networks.

Regional Connectors are not required to pay for the development costs of the CRC directly, but do so through the industry partners they bring to the CRC.

# Next steps

The Smarter Regions CRC Bid Team and Industry Steering Committee is enthusiastically seeking to secure new participants and partners to join the CRC over the next two-to-three months.

The Commonwealth Government has provided the following timetable:

## 30 April 2020 – Round 22 Opens

The final Guidelines, declaration forms and online application form will be available for applicants.

## 29 July 2020 – Round 22 Closes

Bids lodge the online application with signed participant declarations.

# More information

For more information on this CRC, contact:

### Bid Development Leader

Professor Javen Qinfeng Shi  
Australian Institute for Machine Learning  
University of Adelaide, SA, 5005  
javen.shi@adelaide.edu.au  
0423 703 886

### Bid Development Leader

Dr Paul Dalby  
Australian Institute for Machine Learning  
University of Adelaide, SA, 5005  
paul.dalby@adelaide.edu.au  
0401 122 204



Smarter **Regions**