

# INNOVATION LAUNCHPAD



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NEWCASTLE  
AUSTRALIA

**nier**

SOLUTIONS FOR GLOBAL CHALLENGES  
ENERGY RESOURCES FOOD WATER

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## At the Innovation Launchpad, businesses are working with world-class researchers to test ideas and demonstrate new technologies.

Located at The University of Newcastle's NIER Precinct, the Innovation Launchpad is a collaborative work, research and testing environment for companies looking to innovate technology or services for the energy, resources, food and water sectors.

Participating businesses are embedded within a NIER research group, and given access to office space and industrial research infrastructure at the NIER precinct, to work together on solutions for real world challenges.

### INNOVATION LAUNCHPAD CASE STUDY ~ EM ENERGY

Co-founded by Isabel Toasa and Chris Wilson, EM Energy's vision is to produce green hydrogen exclusively from waste. Initially, the team were limited by lack of facilities, equipment and funding to safely test their technology. After a chance meeting with NIER researchers, EM Energy moved quickly to establish a research project to test and validate their technology. They were able to relocate their two staff into the Innovation Launchpad and have since received grant funding for their project. Chris has said "it's giving us access to some of the really great resources within the University, such as the research staff, equipment and labs, helping us to accelerate our research and development activities for the company."



### FINDING SOLUTIONS

The dedicated space embeds businesses in a collaborative research environment to facilitate problem solving through best practice industry/academic engagement.



### TESTING FOR SUCCESS

Access to industrial pilot scale facilities is crucial for SMEs to be able to test, validate and demonstrate their innovation. The Innovation Launchpad framework provides SMEs access to valuable testing facilities, not often accessible on the pathway to commercialisation.



### A NETWORK OF KNOWLEDGE

Participants benefit from knowledge exchange and access to events and expertise through the NSW Energy and Resources Knowledge Hub, hosted at NIER. Support and advice can also be provided through the University for swift navigation of challenging business issues relating to IP, commercialisation and exporting.

## FACILITIES

The NIER precinct is a 3.8 hectare industrial innovation precinct encompassing extensive research laboratories, glasshouses and pilot scale workshops, offering opportunities for industry focused applied research, testing, demonstration and training.

The Launchpad office space provides a range of open plan and flexible workspace areas, offices, informal and formal meeting spaces, high speed WIFI, print and scan facilities, a well-equipped kitchen and breakout area with self-service tea and coffee, storage and locker space – all for a nominal monthly service fee.







The Innovation Launchpad is an initiative of the NSW Energy and Resources Knowledge Hub and hosted by NIER at the University of Newcastle.

Phone: +61 2 4033 9000

Email: [nier@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:nier@newcastle.edu.au)

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