

METS Innovation Regional Accelerator (MIRA)

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Applications now open for the METS Innovation Regional Accelerator (MIRA - Darling Downs)

FOR IMMEDIATE MEDIA RELEASE

Small to medium enterprises (SMEs), scale-ups and start-ups breaking into the mining equipment, technology services (METS) sector are invited to take part in a regional accelerator program launched today in Toowoomba.

METS Ignited and Startup Toowoomba are working with Canvas Coworking to drive commercial outcomes in regional Queensland by launching the 2021 METS Innovation Regional Accelerator (MIRA) Darling Downs with support from the Queensland Government.

This accelerator program will identify and address business capability gaps for participating businesses, as well as provide coaching, and mentoring from qualified and experienced industry partners to propel the businesses to success. The program has been designed to help businesses improve and accelerate their commercial outcomes including competitiveness, gaining traction in the market with their solutions and establishing robust and sustainable businesses.

For two years running, the program in Toowoomba showcased how business models and technology such as virtual and augmented reality from the resources and agricultural sectors could be used within the METS sector.

Startup Toowoomba Director David Masefield said: "We are really excited to be launching the 2021 METS Innovation Regional Accelerator - Darling Downs here at Canvas Coworking in Toowoomba.

"We look forward to working with SME founders, innovative entrepreneurs and experienced industry experts to commercialise new products and services that will help position Queensland's global centre for METS innovation.

"The mentors we are assembling will provide the cohort with accelerated learning and access to industry connections they might otherwise struggle to find.

"The program features mentors including Jeremy Phillips and Quentin Morgan from Qteq will bring decades of METS, oil and gas experience as well as our partners from QUT Centre for Mining Equipment, Technology and Services Business Innovation.

METS Ignited CEO Adrian Beer said METS Ignited is pleased to again be supporting regional accelerator programs such as the METS Innovation Regional Accelerator Darling Downs

because of their success providing local businesses access to high calibre programs supported by industry leaders who are also regionally based, and designed to accelerate a path to commercialisation.

“MIRA supports new and growing METS companies in regional areas to access a program - usually only available in metropolitan areas - which provides training, coaching and mentoring and allows them access to industry leaders from the mining, METS, energy and resources sectors.

“In our experience, accelerators like this one, provide significant value for regional innovators looking to build their business growth opportunities and accelerate their commercial success,” Adrian Beer said.

Startup Toowoomba's Program Director for MIRA Darling Downs, Joy Taylor said: "The MIRA program for 2021 has been strengthened as a result of what we learnt in 2019 and 2020.

“It’s been developed to suit the needs of METS SMEs, scaleups and startups in regional areas, with content tailored to the individual business requirements or challenges.

“Our mentors have experience across a wide range of fields within and outside the mining and technology sectors, which will support the acceleration of each of the entrepreneurs on their journey to develop viable new products supporting growth of the METS sector in Queensland and globally.

This year, we are also excited to be working collaboratively with the team from QUT Centre for Mining, Equipment, Technology and Business Innovation”.

As places for the free MIRA Darling Downs 2021 program are limited, interested businesses are urged to get in quick and register at www.startuptoowoomba.com.au

This regional accelerator program is delivered by METS Ignited with funding support from the Queensland Government as part of its Queensland Mining Equipment, Technology and Services 10 Year Roadmap and Action Plan.

Applications for MIRA Darling Downs 2021 program are now open via www.startuptoowoomba.com.au/mira-darling-downs/

For additional details or comments contact:

David Masefield at Startup Toowoomba 0422 590 552

Joy Taylor at Canvas Coworking 0407 584 987

[Kathleen Conrad](#) at METS Ignited