THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

Digital Sciences Initiative Seed Funding
Call for Problem Statement 2023

The University of Sydney's Digital Sciences Initiative (DSI) was launched in 2020 to help NSW and Australian industry, society and government seize the opportunity to be a global leader in the digital revolution. Our vision is **bold**: to be the catalyst for the creation and transformation of digital industries; to be a driving force for fundamental digital science and digital technology research by providing an ecosystem where researchers, industry, investors and policy makers can explore ideas, collaborate, and create; and to be a destination where a new generation of digital scientists, engineers, and entrepreneurs are mentored and trained.

The aim for our 'Call for Problem Statements' is to work with industry on your digital challenges by building a team of researchers across a multi-disciplinary group in both fundamental and applied research who can work collaboratively with you to develop solutions.

Eligibility
The 'call for problem statement' is open to all new and existing industry partners. The project description should be developed in conjunction with academic staff affiliated with the DSI and in collaboration with one or more industry partners.

The funding and process
Industry problem statements will be developed in consultation with the DSI professional support team or academics, and assessed by an expert panel. The assessment will be based on a set of criteria linked to research quality and potential for societal impact.

The DSI professional support team will organise initial workshops and engagement activities for selected researchers and industry partners to further develop the scope of work.

Following the workshops, project descriptions will be requested from relevant industry and academic teams to outline a scope of work that addresses an industry need. Selected projects will receive funding from the University to further develop project ideas and conduct initial feasibility assessments and undertake preliminary research activities.

These projects will be expected to be completed over a three to six-month period and will be funded **up to $35k,** with a maximum of $10k available to support equipment or consumables purchases and the balance available to employ a Research Associate/a student intern/ technical staff or similar to help complete the work. On completion of these initial projects, selected teams will receive support to develop collaborative research proposals aimed at developing deep engagement between the University and project partners.

How to apply
Please send your problem statement addressing the following questions to: dsi@sydney.edu.au

1. Problem summary (200 words)
2. Why is this problem crucial to your business/industry? (300 words)
3. What expertise do you think is needed to resolve this problem? (100 words)
4. What kind of resource will your organisation invest to help solve the problem, if your application is successful? (200 words)

Key dates
- **Application open: 01 March 2023**
- **Applications close: 03 April 2023**
- **Workshops to match capabilities: April to May 2023**
- **Funded project to start: June 2023**

We look forward to starting a conversation!

For more information

Stefan Williams | Director, Digital Sciences Initiative
Kelisha Lyndon | Business Development Manager, DSI
dsi@sydney.edu.au

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