

Researcher-to-Founder Journey

 FULL-DAY WORKSHOP

 2nd Feb - 18th Feb 2026

Led by **Russell Merz** (enviroMETS Queensland). Aligned with the Viksit Bharat Bill, this intensive workshop covers research translation, commercialisation pathways, licensing, spin-outs, and real-world impact.



Research Translation

Move ideas from lab to market with proven frameworks



Commercialisation

Navigate licensing, spin-outs, and adoption pathways



Real-World Impact

Transform academic excellence into measurable outcomes





GLOBAL BEST PRACTICES

12-Point Workshop Outcomes

A one-day intensive inspired by leading ecosystems like Oxford, Stanford, and Cambridge. Learn how top accelerators and translational research hubs move ideas from lab to market.

1

Global Ecosystem Insights

Learn from Oxford, Stanford, and Cambridge's proven translation models

2

Accelerator Best Practices

Discover frameworks used by leading hubs to move research to market

3

Mindset Transformation

Transition from classroom thinking to boardroom decision-making

4

Stanford SPARK Model* Or similar

Prepare research for real-world adoption before fundraising begins

5

Oxford-Style Translation* Or similar

Scale deep research into companies without compromising credibility

6

Cambridge & MIT Pathways* Or similar

Understand global commercialisation routes across leading ecosystems

Founder Mindset Shift

Unpack the transformation top accelerators see when researchers become founders

The "Missing Middle" Challenge

Examine why world-class research stalls in global innovation systems

Strategic Clarity

Build narrative and intent before engaging investors, like successful researcher-founders

Founder Readiness Assessment: Gain insight into frameworks accelerators use to assess founder readiness, not just startup ideas.

Global Perspective: This is not a startup bootcamp—it's a founder-readiness immersion grounded in international best practice.

Presenter



RUSSELL MERZ

Commercialisation, Ventures & Technology (NED), EnviroMETS
Queensland, Australia

Russell Merz is an experienced engineering and business executive with 35+ years of international experience across water-related risk, resilience, and stewardship.

He has helped start up and scale technologies linked to water, ESG, decarbonisation, and digital transformation in the resources and energy sectors, and is a Fellow of Engineers Australia (civil & environmental).

He has provided technical direction on multi-disciplinary projects in 45+ countries, with deep exposure to environmental & water management, capacity-building, and global standards/impact frameworks.



DR. MANISH MALHOTRA

Founder, Futred Innovation Studios
& ATMC, Australia

Dr. Malhotra has built institutions that bridge higher education and employability. He is the Founder of ATMC (Australian Technical and Management College), which has delivered degrees to over 18,000 international students in partnership with Australian universities.

A PhD in Computer Science (RMIT University, Australia), he has also completed executive education at the Saïd Business School, University of Oxford, and London Business School

“ This masterclass brings 100+ years of collective expertise from 5 countries. “



Workshop Details



Format

1-Day IFDP (Full-Day Intensive)



Audience

Researchers, Faculty, Research Heads, Innovation & Incubation Teams



Outcome

A clearer pathway to move research toward adoption, commercialisation, and measurable impact

 **Delivered by:** Futred Innovation Studios

Website: futred.com

Contact : partnership@futred.com

Leave with a global perspective on what it takes to move from research excellence to company leadership.

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