

Topic: What are the most promising energy storage technology options to meet the needs of renewable electricity generators and grid operators?

The AIC was contracted in 2009 by the Australian Government Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Resources to deliver a series of R&D Forums and TechClinics™. The aim of the activity was to accelerate innovation and collaboration in the development of a clean energy industry in Australia.

The R&D Forum was attended by sixty content experts, specifically selected from a broad cross section of industry, research organisations and government. The Forum resulted in significant new observations about the market for energy storage technologies, including:

- i) Australia lacks an existing innovation cluster for energy storage

- ii) There are clearly differentiated economics between the energy storage needs of remote locations and the city
- iii) Current storage technologies are already economically viable in some remote applications
- iv) Remote renewable electricity generation technologies already exist, but a scalable solution for energy storage is still missing.

Several topical issues for government bodies to consider also surfaced, including:

- i) Several standards and regulatory issues are hindering uptake of energy storage technologies
- ii) Current regulatory frameworks lack energy storage policy
- iii) Substantial compliance obligations exist for grid connection and storage approvals
- iv) There is a shortage of technical skills to meet energy storage demand.

Collaborative discussion of these observations during the facilitation process led to the stakeholders agreeing on the most readily accessible and immediate market opportunities for energy storage solutions in Australia: off-grid, remote, indigenous and mining sites. The principal outcome from the R&D Forum was then the emergence of a number of significant, remote, energy utility projects in which R&D organisations and SMEs at the Forum could potentially participate.

The projects and opportunities identified at the R&D Forum then formed the basis for more detailed research and discussion through subsequent Value Chain Mapping and TechClinics™.



WHO IS THE AIC?

The Australian Institute for Commercialisation (AIC) is a leading service organisation helping innovators achieve commercial success. The AIC has delivered R&D Forums across a broad range of industries, including: tourism, food technology, clean technology, ICT, nanotechnology, biotechnology and mining, working with governments, multinational firms, universities and small businesses in the process.

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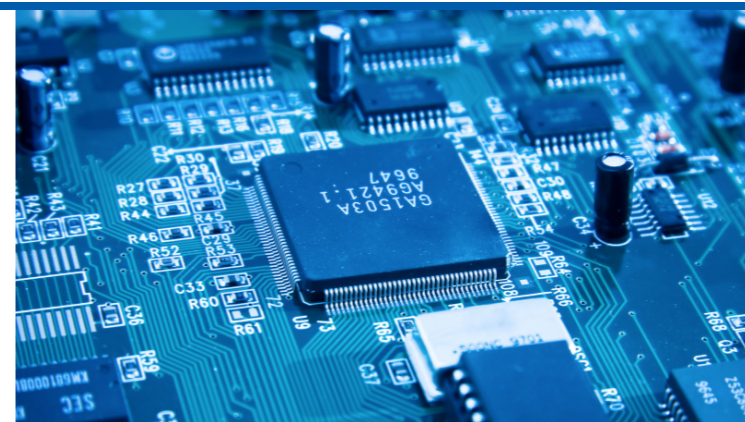


Australian Institute
for Commercialisation

AIC R&D FORUMS

→ Driving innovation + collaboration in industry





WHAT ARE AIC R&D FORUMS?

AIC R&D Forums form an integral part of the AIC Industry Innovation Framework - a facilitated process driving innovation and collaboration to solve specific industry challenges and take advantage of emerging opportunities.

AIC R&D Forums, as the second step in the AIC Industry Innovation Framework, are assisting governments and companies in framing contemporary industry challenges and reaching common understanding of alternative solutions.

The Forums achieve this by bringing together researchers, technology providers, potential end-users of research and other significant stakeholders (e.g. regulators, supply chain members and government agencies) to explore specific opportunities whereby industry capability and R&D activities can be leveraged to meet end-users' existing or future market needs.

This activity results in better utilisation of national capability to address specific market opportunities and to drive economic growth.



WHY AN AIC R&D FORUM?

Governments and industry representative bodies alike are seeking to improve economic growth by solving industry challenges and taking advantage of emerging opportunities.

AIC R&D Forums identify the most challenging barriers to greater industry collaboration and ensure that all aspects of an industry's growth are considered. After a specific industry problem or opportunity is identified, the AIC accesses and assembles a diverse array of stakeholders from across the entire value chain to achieve specific outcomes from the Forum

This proven procedure results in innovation processes focused on relevant market needs, avoiding sub-optimal solutions which are common to poorly facilitated processes.

AIC CAPABILITY

The AIC is adept at delivering successful R&D Forums across different industry sectors. The AIC has delivered R&D Forums in sectors including:

1. Coal Seam Methane Gas
2. Bio-fuels
3. Marine Waste
4. Food Processing
5. Food Technology
6. Bio-commodities
7. Social Science Innovation
8. Smart Grids
9. Energy Storage

R&D FORUM OUTCOMES

AIC R&D Forums, as part of the Industry Innovation Framework, stimulate technology and commercial receptiveness between the research community, government, SMEs, end-users and other stakeholders. R&D Forums enable participating parties to:

1. Articulate their specific market needs;
2. Determine which technology developers or providers have appropriate solutions;
3. Identify, equip, and action appropriate parties to participate in collaborative development and commercialisation activities;
4. Identify where research may be applied to new development opportunities; and
5. Focus future R&D activity towards real market needs.

WHAT ARE PARTICIPANTS SAYING?

"Well organised, good structure, designed to encourage group thoughts and comments, and synthesise findings and communicate to the important few. Well done!"

(Larry Brown, Icon Energy)

"Very well facilitated"

(Reagan Parle, DEEDI)

"It was very beneficial for me. As an academic I got an insight into the challenges and problems faced by the industry"

(Cagil Ozansoy, Victoria University)

Figure 1: AIC Industry Innovation Framework

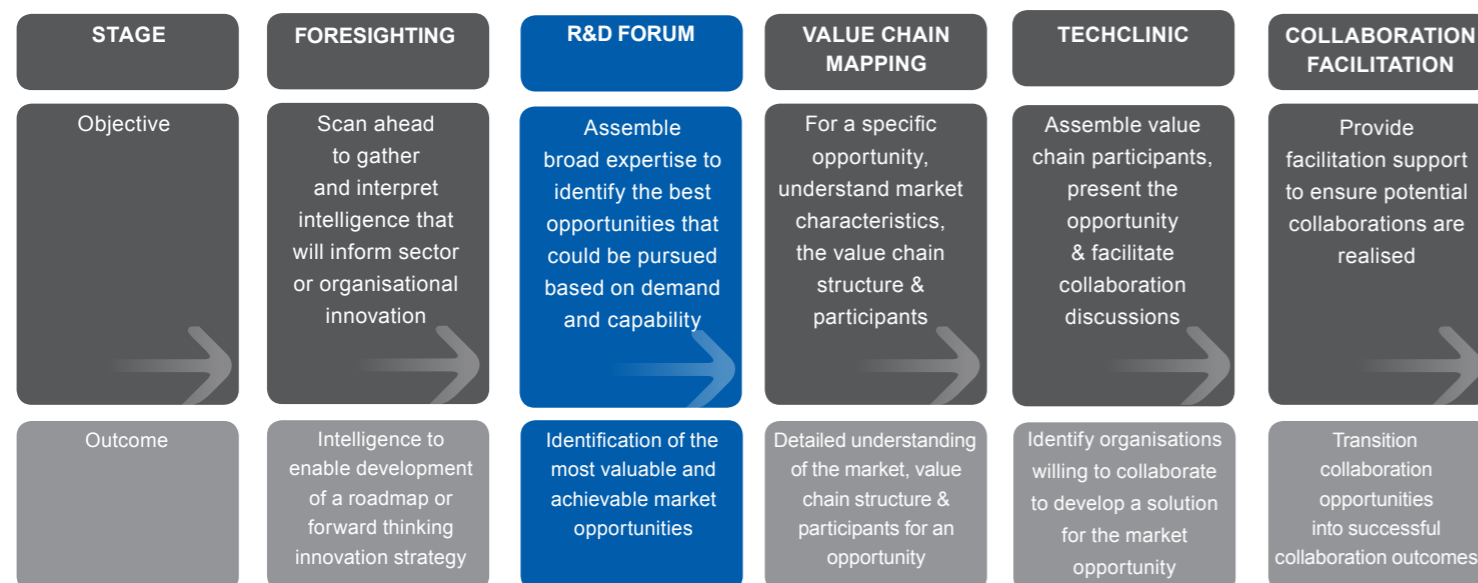


Figure 2: Core AIC R&D Forum Strategy

