



Press Release

A First in Southeast Asia – SGInnovate Presents Inaugural Deep Tech Summit

*Launch of Singapore's first certified Blockchain Developer Programme and
investments into deep tech startups announced*

18 September 2018, Singapore: [SGInnovate](#) is today presenting [Deep Tech Summit](#), Southeast Asia's first dedicated deep tech event that brings together thought leaders from major innovation hubs around the world to explore how emerging technology developments will transform human society. As part of its commitment to growing deep tech in Singapore, SGInnovate is also announcing the launch of Singapore's first certified Blockchain Developer Programme and the completion of investments into Tricog Health, ThinCI Inc and Quantiply.

Happening as part of the Singapore Week of Innovation and Technology (SWITCH), the Deep Tech Summit is a full-day conference that allows SGInnovate and stakeholders from across the deep tech ecosystem to explore technology's impact on humanity. Pertinent topics that would be headlining the conference include "AI across industries"; "blockchain beyond fintech"; "the future of work and talent development"; as well as "venture building and deep tech investments".

"Organising and hosting the inaugural Deep Tech Summit is a very exciting time for us. This is a great opportunity to see global tech leaders and scientists come together in Singapore, to exchange ideas on topics such as venture building, deep tech talent, and the role of future technologies," said Steve Leonard, Founding CEO, SGInnovate. "Ultimately, we want Deep Tech Summit to be an annual event with a foundational theme of how technology will continue to play a vital role in shaping societies."

At the Deep Tech Summit, SGInnovate announced a partnership with Kingsland University – School of Blockchain and Ngee Ann Polytechnic to launch Singapore's first certified blockchain developer programme. Designed to accommodate working professionals, the hybrid immersion blockchain programme will employ a blend of face-to-face intensive technical training and online supported instruction.

The tripartite collaboration enables the fusion of technical expertise from Kingsland School of Blockchain and educational practice by Ngee Ann Polytechnic with the deep tech ecosystem of SGInnovate. Comprising two modular courses: "DApps and Solidity" and "Blockchain Networks", eligible trainees may receive course and certification funding support through the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA)'s TechSkills Accelerator (TeSA)¹ CITREP+ programme.

¹ An initiative of SkillsFuture, TechSkills Accelerator (TeSA) aims to build and develop a skilled Information and Communications Technology (ICT) workforce for Singapore's digital economy. TeSA is driven by the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) and in collaboration with the industry, SkillsFuture Singapore, Workforce Singapore and the National Trades Union Congress. IMDA takes an integrated approach to ICT skills acquisition and practitioner training, enabling professionals to acquire the relevant in-demand skills. To find out more about TeSA, please visit www.imtalent.sg/tesa

Aligned with the Committee on the Future Economy's recommendation for individuals to acquire and utilise deep skills, this new programme is designed to upskill and transform current software programmers into certified blockchain developers. The first workshop is set to take place in November 2018, and this milestone programme is testament to SGInnovate's aim of further strengthening human capital for Singapore's deep tech startup ecosystem.

Besides the launch of the blockchain developer programme, SGInnovate also announced that it is adding more resources to the AI-systems startup landscape by investing in three deep tech startups – Tricog Technologies, ThinCI Inc and Quantiplay:

- **Tricog Health** is a deep tech AI startup that aims to solve the healthcare challenge of saving millions of lives lost to the world's leading cause of death – heart disease. Powered by a hybrid of advanced machine learning algorithms working alongside a team of cardiologists, the Tricog ECG solution enables health care workers across the globe to diagnose heart diseases in real time, saving time and lives. Since 2014, Tricog has touched the lives of over 1.1 million patients across 12 countries.
- **ThinCI Inc** builds Ultra-Energy-Efficient computing platforms that support AI applications, including deep learning, vision processing and machine intelligence. The company is focused on building the technology that will allow AI to be embedded into mass market devices, accelerating the ubiquity of AI-powered devices for everyday use.
- **Quantiplay** specialises in the use of AI to automate and speed up the Anti-Money Laundering and Know Your Customer processes in financial institutions. By providing a largely automated and intelligent alert/ case management system, Quantiplay helps financial institutions implement highly effective controls against the increasing complexity of financial crimes.

"Our mission is to form, fund and build deep tech startups founded by scientist-entrepreneurs. Through hands-on work with hundreds of scientists, engineers, investors and academics, SGInnovate has gained a unique perspective of the challenges and needs of these technical founders," said Leonard. "Any deep tech startup must have the right Human Capital and Investment Capital to succeed. That is why all our work is captured in these two pillars. This commitment of focus was made during the announcement of SGInnovate's Deep Tech Nexus strategy in 2017."

He added, "We are excited to share news of the most recent actions SGInnovate has taken to contribute to Singapore's innovation-led economy. The equity investments we've made into Tricog Health, Quantiplay and ThinCI Inc; and our launch of Singapore's first certified blockchain developer programme, are examples of how we are helping build a deep tech startup ecosystem through our focus on Human Capital and Investment Capital".

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About SGInnovate

At SGInnovate, we believe that Singapore has all the resources and capabilities needed to tackle 'hard problems' that matter to people around the world. As part of our Deep Tech Nexus Strategy, we are focused on adding tangible value to the Singapore deep tech startup ecosystem in two key areas – development of Human Capital and deployment of Investment Capital. With the support of our partners and co-investors, we back deeply technical founders through equity-based investments, access to talent, and support in building customer traction. Our efforts are prioritised around transformational technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain and MedTech, which represent impactful and scalable answers to global challenges. SGInnovate is a private-limited company wholly owned by the Singapore Government. For more information, please visit www.sginnovate.com

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Appendix – Quotes from partners and portfolio companies

Quote from Ngee Ann Polytechnic

"Ngee Ann Polytechnic is happy to be the first educational institution in Singapore to use blockchain technology for awarding academic certificates to students, earning our place as an early adopter of deep tech in the education sphere. We're excited to take the next step in partnering SGInnovate and Kingsland University's School of Blockchain to design the curriculum and co-deliver the programme for the first certified blockchain developer programme in Singapore," said Clarence Ti, Principal, Ngee Ann Polytechnic

Quote from Kingsland University – School of Blockchain

"Singapore is shepherding technology along the cutting edge and we're pleased to be working with institutions and governments committed to the development of DLT and digital currencies," said John Souza, Kingsland Founder and CEO. "Through our partnership with Ngee Ann Polytechnic and SGInnovate, students will be able to undertake the upskilling necessary to remain competitive and relevant in an evolving tech landscape. Alongside this partnership, the IMDA CITREP+ endorsement allows students to access our leading-edge curriculum at subsidised rates. It's an innovative and inclusive path we're forging together, fulfilling Kingsland's promise to provide equitable access to disruptive skills education. Together, we will build the blockchain foundations for a better, more equal, more empowered world."

Quote from IMDA

"Blockchain is an emerging tech domain which has the potential to transform businesses and industries worldwide. Through initiatives such as the Blockchain Developer programme, we will prepare our tech professionals to develop skills in blockchain development and application so as to seize exciting new opportunities in this space," said Tan Kiat How, Chief Executive, IMDA.

Quote from Quantiplly

"We are pleased to have SGInnovate invest in our Series A funding round and are in the process of setting up our AI R&D Lab in Singapore. Quantiplly is driven to change the way we think about leveraging human and machine intelligence to deliver the most value from the complex problems we face in the world today. Intelligent systems can make a huge impact when they are able to not only leverage human intelligence, but also act, discover, and solve problems more independently," said Surendra Reddy, CEO, Quantiplly.

Reddy added, "Anti-money laundering compliance has been the single biggest challenge and expensive operation for banks around the world. Despite billions invested in monitoring an increasingly complex problem, money laundering is still a real and growing issue for law enforcement and regulators everywhere. Quantiplly is set to change this with Sensemaker – a first-of-its-kind cognitive intelligence platform for AML, KYC and compliance. Sensemaker is able to significantly lower costs and time spent while delivering deeper insights and more accurate predictions for financial institutions to act on."

Quote from ThinCI Inc

"We are thrilled to have SGInnovate invest in our Series C venture funding round," said ThinCI CEO Dinakar Munagala. "We believe our technology can accelerate the widespread

deployment of AI into the devices that surround us in everyday life. SGInnovate's strategy of providing not only financial backing but its contribution to building customer traction is a real asset for ThinCl as we ramp up our sales and marketing effort.”

Quote from Tricog Health

“Tricog is one of the world’s leading Health AI startups having served over a million patients,” said Dr Charit Bhograj, Founder and CEO, Tricog Health. “With the support of SGInnovate and their participation in our Series A funding round, we will accelerate our growth across Asia, Africa and work with SGInnovate’s deep tech ecosystem here in Singapore to consolidate our lead in advanced algorithms that solve real world medical problems.”