



Texas Medical Center's (TMC) Bio-bridge Initiative – connecting Houston and Australia

About this new initiative

The Bio-Bridge initiative is designed to create new connections between the Australian medtech sector and the world's largest medical centre – the Texas Medical Center in Houston, USA.

The opportunity for Australian medtech startups and SMEs

As part of the Bio-Bridge initiative, Australian companies focused on digital health and medical devices will have the opportunity to apply to participate in the Texas Medical Center Accelerator program (TMCx). There will be two cohorts per year, with the first intake commencing in the US in February 2017.

Austrade will work with industry, stakeholders and TMC to introduce 4-5 Australian companies into the TMCx Accelerator. The 4-month program will be offered on a competitive basis at no charge to Australian companies.

Participating companies will be responsible for funding their own travel, accommodation and other expenses while in Houston.

The broader opportunity for the Australian medtech sector

In addition to creating opportunities for Australian companies to take part in TMCx, the Bio-Bridge Initiative has the potential to create stronger linkages between our medtech ecosystems which could lead

to greater R&D collaboration, commercialisation of ideas within Australia and greater numbers of clinical trials being held in Australia.

This new partnership and linkage to one of the largest medtech ecosystems in the US has the potential to create a number of flow-on benefits. Ideally, the Bio-Bridge Program would foster the formation of a cohort of Australian and US companies involved in two-way exchanges and partnerships to support Australian commercialisation of innovative medical technologies.

Industry briefings October 2016

Industry briefing sessions will take place in Brisbane, Melbourne and Adelaide in October 2016. Additional details will be available soon.

TMC CEO Dr Robert C Robbins and COO Mr William McKeon will introduce the Bio-bridge initiative and the TMCx and discuss US market opportunities for Australian medtech startups/SMEs, followed by one-on-one meetings with invited companies.

Mr McKeon will formally announce the Bio-bridge partnership between TMC and Australia at the AusBiotech Investment Conference on Thursday, 27 October in Melbourne.

About TMC

The Texas Medical Center (TMC) is the largest medical centre in the world and largest employer in Houston, with an extensive campus of hospitals (21), non-profit organisations (50) and academic and research

institutions (8). TMC concentrates its operations and research on genomics, regenerative medicine, innovation, clinical trials and health policy. TMC is seeking to expand its commercialisation capacities through TMCx, an accelerator designed to concentrate on the development of medical devices and technology.

About the TMC Accelerator Program (TMCx)

The Texas Medical Center has established the largest Life Sciences accelerator and incubator in the US, with over 120,000 square feet of space and growing.

Located in the TMC Innovation Institute, the program provides innovative early-stage healthcare companies with shared workspace, a curriculum tailored to the needs of health entrepreneurs and the guidance of over 120 advisors from the front lines of the industry. Companies have access to the world's largest medical centre, all without membership fees or equity sharing.

Participants can gain insights from experts in every facet of running a health-related business: clinical trials, FDA regulations, HIPAA/HITECH compliance, hospital procurement, commercial pilots, IP, licensing, fundraising, marketing and other critical areas.

In addition, participants work with the TMCx team to refine strategies and build relationships across the Texas Medical Center. The four-month program culminates with TMCx Demo Day, an exclusive presentation to hundreds of investors, corporate partners, hospital stakeholders, media and guests.

About TMCx Intake 2017

TMCx guides two cohorts of companies per year: one focused on digital health, the other on medical devices. Each class is made up of roughly 10- 20 companies. From 2017, 4-5 companies will be from Australia.

- The application process for the first TMCx Digital Health Australia cohort will close in November 2016. The TMCx teams will come together in the February of 2017.
- The TMCx Medical Device application process will close in June 2017 and the teams will join together in September 2017.

The TMCx accelerator advances the development of health and medical technology companies by

connecting visionary entrepreneurs to the extensive resources of the Texas Medical Center.

Who is TMCx for?

The companies accepted to the TMCx program range from startups in early stages of development to companies that are FDA-cleared and revenue positive. TMC asks that at least one founder from each company be located in Houston for the duration of the program; much of a company's success through TMCx results from the opportunities the Texas Medical Center offers for networking and personal interaction with experts in medicine and life sciences.

Next steps

- Attend an industry briefings to learn more about this initiative. Dates are:
 - 24 October – Brisbane
 - 28 October – Melbourne
 - 31 October – AdelaideTo obtain more information and express your interest in attending one of these events, please register [here](#)
- Startups and innovative SMEs interested in being part of TMCx can also register their interest [here](#)

More information

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