Why Singapore's deep tech founders need more than good science - and how National GRIP is filling that gap

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For deep tech ventures emerging from Singapore's research institutions, the hardest part of the commercialisation journey is rarely the science. It is finding the right investor at the right stage, connecting with a corporate partner willing to run a pilot, or accessing the market intelligence needed to sharpen a go-to-market strategy. These are relationship problems as much as capability problems, and they are rarely solved in a laboratory.

That is precisely why National GRIP is bringing its most promising deep tech founders to Echelon Singapore 2026. For a platform built on the belief that structured venture building can accelerate the path from research to revenue, a gathering of Southeast Asia's most active founders, investors, and ecosystem leaders is not just a good opportunity. It is a direct extension of the work.

Southeast Asia is at an inflection point in its innovation trajectory. Capital is flowing toward ventures with genuine technological differentiation. Corporates are actively scanning for emerging technologies to integrate into their operations. Governments across the region are doubling down on innovation-led economic growth. The conditions for deep tech commercialisation have rarely been more favourable, but only for founders who can make the right connections at the right time.

Putting founders in the room

National GRIP's core objective at Echelon Singapore 2026 is straightforward: to place high-potential deep tech founders in direct conversation with the investors, industry leaders, and ecosystem partners who can meaningfully accelerate their commercialisation journey.

The ventures being showcased are not early-stage ideas. They have been through rigorous market validation, customer discovery, and investor readiness processes. They operate in sectors where Southeast Asia has growing strategic relevance, including AI, sustainability, healthcare, advanced materials, climate tech, robotics, and biotech. What they need now is not more programme support. They need the collisions that Echelon Singapore 2026 is uniquely positioned to create.

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For investors attending Echelon Singapore 2026, this represents an efficient opportunity to engage with a curated pipeline of deep tech ventures that have already been pressure-tested through structured commercialisation frameworks. For corporates, it is a direct line to innovations emerging from Singapore's research ecosystem that are closer to deployment than many early-stage startups encountered at traditional events.

Ecosystem building as a shared goal

Beyond showcasing individual ventures, National GRIP is at Echelon Singapore 2026 to contribute to a broader conversation about how Southeast Asia's innovation ecosystem can better support founders making the leap from research to market.

The platform actively seeks to deepen relationships with venture capital firms, accelerators, universities, government agencies, and industry partners who share a commitment to deep tech commercialisation. Echelon Singapore 2026's cross-sector, cross-border convening power makes it the right environment to explore collaborations that would take months to engineer through conventional channels.

There is also a talent dimension to this. National GRIP's target community extends beyond founders to include commercial operators, innovation leaders, and ecosystem builders who want to contribute to venture creation from deep technology. Echelon Singapore 2026 draws exactly this profile of participant, making it a productive environment to expand the network of people actively engaged in building the region's next generation of research-driven companies.

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What to expect at Echelon Singapore 2026

Attendees who engage with National GRIP at Echelon Singapore 2026 can expect direct access to one-to-one meetings with frontier tech founders currently in the portfolio. These are not pitch sessions. They are genuine conversations between founders who have done the commercialisation groundwork and stakeholders who can help them scale.

National GRIP is also looking to use its presence at Echelon Singapore 2026 to spark partnerships that extend well beyond the event itself: investor relationships that lead to funding, corporate engagements that open pilot opportunities, and ecosystem collaborations that strengthen Singapore's capacity to build globally competitive ventures from its research base.

For anyone at Echelon Singapore 2026 with a stake in where Southeast Asia's deep tech economy is headed, whether as a founder, an investor, a corporate innovator, or an ecosystem builder, National GRIP's presence offers a rare window into the quality and ambition of what is emerging from Singapore's research institutions right now.

The region is evolving quickly, and Echelon Singapore 2026 offers the right place at the right moment to be part of what comes next. Register here to join the conversation.

National GRIP is jointly run by Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore) and the National University of Singapore (NUS), supported by the National Research Foundation, Singapore (NRF Singapore).

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