Ahead of the Curve

Investing in Canada’s Digital Future | October 2021
We accelerate the development and adoption of digital technologies that help Canadians stay healthy, address climate change, drive economic productivity and build digital skills.
We unlock the potential of Canadians to lead and succeed in the digital world through a powerful combination of co-investment, cross-industry collaboration, IP creation and digital talent development.

1000+ Organizations

Diverse Expertise

Industry: Startups, SMEs, Large, Multinational
Research: Universities, colleges, institutes, Government, Not-for-profits
The world has changed

If the pace of the pre-coronavirus world was already fast, the luxury of time now seems to have disappeared completely. Businesses that once mapped digital strategy in one- to three-year phases must now scale their initiatives in a matter of days or weeks.

70% of new business value over the next decade will be through digitally enabled platforms

87% of companies say they either are experiencing skills gaps now or expect them within a few years

MCKINSEY
Canadian industry is behind

R&D Investment

<50%

Canadian industry invests less than 50% of advanced economies in R&D and our rate of investment is declining.

Digital Adoption

Canadian industry significantly lags the US in real business investment in software.

Digital Skilling

56%

Canadian industry invests 56% of the global average companies spend on employee learning and development.
Collaborative innovation, co-investment and the customer voice drive results and adoption

1. Demand based R&D and Collaborative Innovation:
Diverse parties: academia, industry leaders, SMEs, public sector develop solutions together better than any single organization could alone.

2. Accelerating development through Co-investment
A co-investment approach de-risks and accelerates the pursuit of breakthrough digital technology and Canadian-owned IP

3. Driving Digital Adoption through customer voice
The ‘customer voice’ is at the table. Accelerated adoption unlocks opportunities for customers, providers and community.
A new digital innovation approach: Design thinking meets cross-industry collaboration and co-investment

We employ a new innovation model that is led by industry and connects innovators, academia and customers to commercialize research and create and keep Canadian-owned IP.
Our approach is working

New Digital R&D Projects

80+

More than 80 cross-industry collaborations in digital R&D and talent development projects

Industry-led Investments

$300+ million

Leveraged industry investment in R&D with over $300M in project investments

Investing in Canadian SMEs

70%

Investments are benefiting Canadian SMEs – supporting new IP, market expansion and scale-up
A snapshot of our impact

- 136 products & services in development
- 20,000 expected jobs
- 25 SMEs scaled
- $1.3B growing over $1B+ in potential revenue for Canadian businesses
- $6,500 learning & development placements
- 40% of teams exploring international opportunities
- 350+ anticipated IP assets
Accessible, relevant, effective digital health

**Autism Sharing Initiative**
The first global network for sharing genomics and biomedical data to accelerate research to develop precision healthcare approaches for individuals with autism.

**Wellness.ai**
Developing a ‘digital brain’ to understand human interactions to deliver an immersive and personalized wellness coaching experience.

**Telewound Care**
Best-practice wound management across the care continuum.
Environmentally sustainable approaches to natural resources

Protecting our Oceans
Using machine learning, artificial intelligence and data visualization to identify, track and apprehend illegal fishing vessels to protect our global fisheries and marine ecosystems

Mining Microbiome Platform
The world’s first open data ecosystem in microbiome-based resource exploration, extraction and waste remediation

Precision Crop Health
A non-pesticide approach to managing crop disease through computational biochemistry, genomics, machine learning, computer vision and robotics.
Improving the competitiveness of Canadian industry

Digital Aviation Records
The platform and ecosystem for digitizing paper-based records and support digital records for airframes and parts.

Forest Machine Connectivity
Automating and optimizing the timber harvesting supply chain using a network of ‘smart’ devices.

Scaling Safe Food Delivery
An end-to-end eGrocery Management solution to ensure food security for Canadians and improve food supply chain management.
Preparing Canadians for the future

Canadian Tech Talent Accelerator
Providing in-demand tech skills to underemployed youth across Canada

Digital Lift
Creating a system for rapidly skilling talent into careers in technology

Athena
Creating responsive and flexible training programs to broaden diversity in AI talent.
Technology innovation / R&D

- Applied AI/ML
- Blockchain
- Bioinformatics & computational biology
- Data standardization & governance
- Data visualization & immersive technologies
- Sensors, smart devices, IoT & robotics
- Geospatial & hyperspectral imaging
We are creating a better Canada

Helping Canadians manage their health and wellness

Addressing the impacts and effects of climate change

Improving the productivity and competitiveness of Canadian industry

Creating job opportunities for Canadians in the digital economy
Join us

- Our community is open to all Canadian organizations
- Explore collaboration opportunities with other organizations
- Develop/propose projects in our targeted program areas
- Repeat your engagement and success

I believe this consortium-based innovation is the way of the future, especially in rapidly growing emerging areas such as AI and ML. By building teams with other ‘A-list’ players we are able to provide interesting, meaningful projects to work on. That means we can create Canadian IP and new jobs. The Digital Technology Supercluster played a key role as an ‘honest broker’ in bringing together the partners at a speed not otherwise possible around these ambitious AI/ML projects.

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