

# At a glance

## Singapore's innovation and startup ecosystem

### Global-Asia node

For innovation, tech & enterprise

Global Innovation Index 2020

#1  
in Asia

#8  
in the World

Global Talent Competitiveness Index 2020

#1  
in Asia

#3  
in the World

Launchpad into Asia

7-hour flight radius from regional innovation hubs

~3,600 Tech startups<sup>1</sup>

7 Unicorns based in Singapore

(Source: Department of Statistics, 2019)

(Source: e-Economy SEA Report 2019 and 2020)

<sup>1</sup> Based on ESG's definition, tech startups refer to firms in ESG's defined tech SSICs with at least 1 employee, are registered in the past 5 years and have more than 50% ownership by individuals.

### Vibrant startup activities

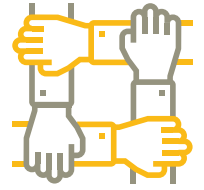
Strong support from public and private sectors



Pro-business and pro-innovation government

>30

Public research and academic institutes



Large pool of MNCs and local corporates as partners

~190 Accelerators/Incubators

>220 VCs

\$5.03b  
453 Deals

Total venture funding raised in Singapore (Jan 1, 2020 to Sept 30, 2020)

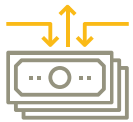
(Source: Enterprise Singapore, 2020)

(Source: Pitchbook, 2020)

(Source: Enterprise Singapore, 2020)

### Ideate

Vibrant R&D activity



Private sector expenditure on R&D:

\$5.6b  
in 2018  
(~10% ↑ from 2008)



Private sector Research Scientists & Engineers:

~19,400  
in 2018  
(~26% ↑ from 2008)



Private sector patents filed:

2,241  
in 2018  
(~3% ↑ from 2017)



17 Corporate laboratories in universities to bridge industry with academia to develop cutting-edge solutions

### Develop

Innovation driven by market needs



9 Centres of Innovation (COIs) to provide enterprises with access to R&D facilities and resources; COIs collectively embarked on >4,200 projects



Global Innovation Alliance network in 13 cities, 10 countries to drive innovation exchanges and partnerships



International Co-innovation Programmes to encourage R&D collaboration with 25 countries



Enterprise Singapore's **STARTUP SG** initiative provides support in infrastructure, mentorship, talent, funding and more

### Commercialise

Connecting innovators to demand through open innovation



Intellectual Property Intermediary (IPI) matches enterprises with global tech partners; >600 global solutions on its online tech platform



In the past year, more than 50 innovation calls and >300 challenge statements, from >250 demand drivers<sup>2</sup> were launched on the Open Innovation Network

[www.openinnovationnetwork.gov.sg](http://www.openinnovationnetwork.gov.sg)

<sup>2</sup> The demand drivers include government agencies, MNCs, LLEs, SMEs, and TACs



This includes:  
16 National Innovation Challenges that were launched since July to overcome both immediate Covid-related and mid- to longer-term challenges;  
8 Government-led Gov-PACT calls with more than  
20 challenge statements