



The Catalyst Program:

Turning
Interdisciplinary
Ideas into Real-World
Impact



UNSW
SYDNEY

Purpose

The Catalyst Program bridges grand challenges with research-driven solutions. Societal and organisational problems, such as renewable energy transition or sustainable healthcare, are complex, interdisciplinary, and difficult to define. Catalyst helps problem owners (practitioners and research institutes) and researchers to move from challenges to actionable projects by providing structured facilitation, collaboration frameworks, and translation support.

Catalyst ensures early-stage partnerships demonstrate feasibility and measurable impact, paving the way for larger-scale funding and long-term collaboration.

Who We Partner With

Problem Owners

- > Organisations confronting complex, interdisciplinary challenges.
- > Industry, government, or research institutes seeking to translate their resources into targeted, research-ready projects.
- > Teams wanting to maximise returns from seed-funding initiatives through structured, high-impact collaboration.

Researchers

- > Academics seeking opportunities to apply their expertise in practical, interdisciplinary contexts, and to seed larger scale partnerships.
- > Research teams aiming to translate findings into implementable solutions.
- > Scholars looking for guided pathways to engage external stakeholders and demonstrate real-world feasibility.



What Catalyst Offers ("ACTS": Action – Collaboration – Translation – Synergy)

1 Action Catalyst

Helps problem owners clearly articulate complex challenges into actionable, researchable components.

3 Translation Catalyst

Provides ongoing coaching in implementation science, ensuring ideas evolve into feasible and sustainable solutions.

2 Collaboration Catalyst

Conducts facilitated "matchmaking" sessions around a shared grand challenge, aligning academic expertise with practical needs.

4 Synergy Catalyst

Evaluates outcomes, documents measurable impact, and captures implementation insights to promote future collaborations.

Benefits

- > Transforms fragmented exploratory efforts into coherent, structured projects.
- > Builds feasibility evidence and early impact of research for sustained partnerships and future larger-scale funding.
- > Strengthens implementation capability among academic and industry teams.
- > Demonstrates tangible real-world impact from interdisciplinary collaboration.

Catalyst in Action: The Future of Energy

The inaugural Catalyst Series with the Future of Energy theme was held on 4 June 2025 and was co-hosted by the PRaXIS Lab in partnership with the Digital Grid Futures Institute (DGFI). The event featured partners from the Australian Energy Market Commission and Ernst & Young.

The Catalyst event attracted broad engagement and led to five proposals, with \$50,000 in DGFI seed funding awarded to two projects with interdisciplinary teams from marketing, accounting, auditing, and taxation on:



Transitioning From Interest to Action: Understanding Consumer Readiness in Australia's Distributed Energy Future



Enabling Sustainability Assurance Through Improved Learning Processes

Contact PRaXIS Lab

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