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NUS Enterprise evolves into NUSX to expand global pathways for deep tech ventures

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The new venture-building and IP commercialisation platform will use AI-powered research commercialisation and new outposts in Munich and Shanghai to connect Singapore discoveries with global markets.

NUS Enterprise, the entrepreneurial heart of the National University of Singapore, has unveiled its next chapter as NUSX.

The new identity reflects its evolution into an integrated venture-building and IP commercialisation platform, bringing together research, talent, industry, capital and global markets to turn discoveries into ventures and help them scale.

NUSX supports this journey by forging entrepreneurial talent, creating market-ready opportunities in the field and expanding its global outpost network beyond Silicon Valley to Munich and Shanghai.

Its next phase places greater emphasis on globalisation, with ventures built for international markets from the outset.

This direction aligns with Singapore’s Research, Innovation and Enterprise 2030 plan, which commits S$37 billion over five years to turn scientific strengths into economic and societal impact.

The initiatives announced at the inaugural A5X, graced by Guest-of-Honour Tan Kiat How, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Digital Development and Information, are intended to help researchers identify market opportunities earlier, validate technologies with industry and move promising research towards commercial application.

The initiatives are primarily anchored in three of NUSX’s four deep tech innovation focus areas: Logic, covering AI and software; Pulse, covering healthcare and biotech; and Resilience, covering dual-use technologies.

The fourth focus area, Matter, covers physical sciences, materials and semiconductors.

As part of the Resilience track, A5X will also host the inaugural Singapore Defense Tech Hackathon from 25 to 27 September 2026.

Organised by NUSX in partnership with the European Defense Tech Hub and TUM Venture Labs, the hackathon will bring together 300 participants from around the world to develop dual-use solutions to real-world defence and security challenges.

Together, these efforts support NUSX's goals through 2035 to create at least one NUS venture generating more than US$100 million in annual revenue or creating 1,000 jobs, generate US$1 billion in financial returns from NUS ventures, and build ventures that collectively improve the lives of one billion people.

Discovering commercial opportunities through AI

An estimated 70 to 80 per cent of university patents worldwide are never licensed.

One challenge is finding the right commercial partner, which can require extensive manual searching with no guarantee of a match.

Researchers understand the scientific value of their work but may have limited visibility into the industry problems it could solve, the companies that could benefit from it, or the most promising route to market.

To address this, NUSX and Zima Labs have jointly developed Nova, an AI-powered engine for research commercialisation.

Nova can analyse a single granted patent and assess its licensing potential against live market evidence, rank potential licensees based on complementary fit and draft tailored proposals for each, while also flagging the patent's limitations.

The platform draws on more than 20,000 NUS patents and invention disclosures, 9,000 research projects and 11,000 inventors.

Nova connects NUS data on global patents, research, start-ups and talent with external intelligence on companies, investors, industry needs and market activities.

Through AI-powered search and automated workflows, it identifies potential partners by matching NUS technologies and capabilities with companies' needs.

It can also surface licensing, co-development and partnership pathways, as well as potential investors and team members.

Each recommendation is supported by underlying evidence, enabling commercialisation managers to do in minutes what previously took man-weeks.

By making opportunity discovery faster and more evidence-based, Nova gives researchers and commercialisation teams an earlier view of where the strongest opportunities lie so that resources are better concentrated.

This can inform decisions on IP strategy, governance, partnerships and commercialisation, while helping NUSX move promising discoveries towards market with greater speed and discipline.

Connecting the ecosystem to priority global markets

Building on the launch of its first outpost at Playground Global's The Studio in Silicon Valley in July 2026, NUSX is establishing its second outpost in Munich, with a third outpost planned for Shanghai in the fourth quarter of 2026.

These outposts form part of NUSX's broader globalisation strategy, giving NUS deep tech ventures earlier access to overseas markets, partners, investors and customers across the United States, Europe and China.

Insights and experience gained overseas will also flow back into Singapore, strengthening education, research translation and commercialisation pathways at home.

Together, the outposts reinforce Singapore's role as a globally connected innovation hub, linking talent, technology and markets across East and West.

NUSX has also entered into a new partnership with UnternehmerTUM, announced at A5X, to strengthen its presence in Europe's technology and innovation ecosystem.

The collaboration will connect NUS deep tech ventures more closely with Munich's innovation ecosystem, while strengthening innovation links between Singapore, Europe and Asia.

It spans reciprocal outposts, investment and talent development, with an initial focus on biotech, AI and semiconductors.

“As the global race to commercialise deep tech accelerates, breakthrough research is only the starting point. The real challenge is translation: finding the right opportunities, validating them early, building strong teams and connecting founders with the capital, industry and markets they need to scale,” said Dr Tan Sian Wee, NUS Senior Vice President, Innovation & Enterprise.

“Nova helps us identify where research can create value, while our global outposts help founders act on those opportunities. Together, they enable us to launch global ventures from Singapore that generate lasting returns and improve lives at scale.”