



Media Release:

## **METS Ignited welcomes new appointments to Australian Innovation eXchange (AIX)**

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023

METS Ignited today welcomed the appointment of Russell Merz to the role of CEO and the appoint of non-executive director Dr David Skellern to the position of Chair of the Australian Innovation eXchange.

The formation of the Australian Innovation eXchange (AIX) is a key milestone in METS Ignited's Growth Centre transition plan.

Russell was initially employed as part of METS Ignited's executive team, supporting organisations to translate their innovation and research into commercial opportunities.

METS Ignited CEO Adrian Beer said METS Ignited demonstrated what can be achieved by supporting Australian technology companies to bring new innovation to market.

"The Australian Innovation eXchange is taking our lessons learned and working at the individual company level to support the commercialisation of local innovation," Mr Beer said.

"Our investment into the collaborative projects alone has created more than 20 new products and services, with companies forecasting annual revenues over \$900 million by 2025.

"While the return on investment clearly speaks for itself, we recognised more work needed to be done at a local level to bring new innovation to market.

"The creation of AIX will allow focus on specific opportunities, while METS Ignited remains committed to transforming Australia's local innovation capability into a long term sustainable segment of our national economy," Mr Beer concluded.

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### Background

METS Ignited is the Industry Growth Centre (IGC) for the Mining Equipment, Technology and Services sector. In operation for over seven years, METS Ignited successfully supported the commercialisation of technology addressing the needs of the resources sector:

- \$15.6 million investment into 35 projects.
- 76 Industry participants, bringing more that 20 new Australian innovations to market.
- Created over 1000 local jobs with a combined revenue estimate of \$900 million by 2025.
- METS Ignited has been instrumental in the establishment of CRC's including the Future Battery Industries (FBI-CRC) and formation of the Electric Mine Consortium (EMC).

METS Ignited will continue to deliver on its objectives under the current Industry Growth Centre funding agreement, operating as a not-for-profit entity addressing the systemic and structural issues commercialising innovation in Australia.

The Australian Innovation eXchange (AIX) is building on the success of the Industry Growth Centre program, by providing industry access to Australia's innovation ecosystem via commercial channels. AIX is enabling Australian technology companies, as the 'go-to channel', to bring local innovation to market, serving global markets from within our national economy.

More information about METS Ignited is available at [www.metsignited.org](http://www.metsignited.org)

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