

## STARTUPS

# SGInnovate and NUS unit to boost deep tech in Singapore

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SGINNOVATE and NUS research institute Centre for Quantum Technologies (CQT) are embarking on a joint effort to strengthen the quantum tech ecosystem in Singapore. Quantum technology is an emerging area of deep technology.

In a Memorandum of Intent (MOI) signed on Friday, both parties acknowledged that more awareness needs to be created regarding quantum technologies in Singapore.

They will host joint events, workshops and outreach activities to promote a larger awareness of quantum tech.



Steve Leonard (far left) and Artur Ekert inking an MOI to promote quantum tech and boost the commercialisation of quantum innovations.  
PHOTO: SGINNOVATE

At a panel discussion following the signing of the MOI, the potential of quantum tech in various areas such as navigation and security were addressed.

The panel consisted of Steve Leonard, founding CEO of SGInnovate; Professor Ar-

tur Ekert, founding director of CQT; Chune Yang Lum, co-founder and CEO of startup SpeQtral; and Runyao Duan, director of Baidu Quantum Computing Institute.

They acknowledged a common need to address how talent can be found and

groomed in the quantum tech sector.

Given the differentiated role of corporations and researchers, Mr Duan said companies need to be aware and be prepared for the new possibilities quantum tech has to offer.

SGInnovate and CQT are looking to draw investments from the VC community, with SGInnovate also being an investor to support aspiring entrepreneurial scientists.

Speaking to *The Business Times*, Prof Ekert said he hopes for the industry to be established in Singapore in the next few years.

He said despite Singapore's small size, quantum tech can thrive in the Republic. "Singapore is in a very good position to implement some of these things important for navigation."