

MEDIA RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
15 July 2026

Victoria's Innovation Leaders Celebrated at 2026 VIC iAwards

Australia's peak industry representative body for those in the digital ecosystem, the Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA), is proud to announce the winners and merit recipients of the 2026 VIC iAwards. As Australia's longest-running innovation recognition program, the iAwards uncover, recognise and reward excellence in Australian innovation.

AIIA CEO, Elizabeth Whitelock, said "Victoria has delivered one of the most diverse fields we have seen, spanning life-saving hospital technology, clinical genomics, advanced manufacturing and ethical AI for creators. It reflects a state that backs both deep research and bold commercial ideas."

"From protecting artists in the age of generative AI to moving freight across a thousand kilometres autonomously, Victorian innovators are tackling hard problems head-on. The breadth on show is a real signal of the state's depth and ambition."

The 2026 VIC iAwards winners and merit recipients were recognised across multiple categories, reflecting the breadth of innovation occurring across the economy.

The 2026 VIC iAwards winners and merit recipients by category:

- Artificial Intelligence Technology, sponsored by the National AI Centre:
 - Winner: Stylometrics - Artist Style Fingerprint & AI Royalty System by Monarrch
- Business & Industry, sponsored by Optus:
 - Winner: Transforming Critical Event Responses in Hospitals by Medtasker
- Diversity, sponsored by Dell Technologies:
 - Winner: Vidiversity by Vidiversity Pty Ltd
 - Merit Recipient: Alt-TAB Ethical Risk Assessment Framework by Away from Keyboard Inc.
- Government & Public Sector, sponsored by the Digital Transformation Agency:
 - Winner: Automation of the Victorian Birth Registration Process by UiPath
- Industrial Technology, sponsored by Datacom:
 - Winner: World-First Fully-Automated FBGs Nano-Manufacturing Machine by Innofocus Photonics Technology Pty Ltd
 - Winner: ROGER: Multi-Sensor Infrastructure Inspection Rover by UAM TEC Pty Ltd

MEDIA RELEASE

- o Merit Recipient: Nexobot: Robotic Parcel Sorter by Nexobot Pty Ltd
- Not-for-Profit & Community, sponsored by DataDriven:
 - o Winner: Clean Up Cam AI Litter Analysis Tool by Conduct on behalf of Clean Up Australia
 - o Merit Recipient: WheelMelb - Wheelchair-Accessible Navigation for Melbourne by Monash University
- Start-Up, sponsored by CDC Data Centres:
 - o Winner: ATLAS™ Long-Range Sovereign Cargo UAV for Remote Airfreight by Gap Drone Pty Ltd
 - o Merit Recipient: Healthcare Reimagined by CKP Solutions Pty Ltd (T/A ClinicTech)
 - o Merit Recipient: Sustainable Land Care: GPS-Free Robotic Mowing & Trimming by Aurova Robotics
- Student, sponsored by Deloitte:
 - o Winner: Multi-User Adaptive LLM Watermarking Scheme by Swinburne University of Technology
 - o Merit Recipient: Nextle Instant Trade Settlement by RMIT University - The Garage
 - o Merit Recipient: GiaRC AI-Assisted Research & Governance System by RMIT University - RAIsE Garage
 - o Merit Recipient: Blue: AI Companion for Families Navigating ASD & ADHD by RMIT University - The Garage
- Sustainability & Environmental, sponsored by Lenovo:
 - o Winner: 1receipt® | Your E-Receipt Pal by 1receipt® | Your E-Receipt Pal
 - o Merit Recipient: HAL by HAL Systems
- Technology Platform, sponsored by Reason Group:
 - o Winner: Genomical - A Genomics Information Management System by Transcendomics
 - o Merit Recipient: Continua by InflaMed Pty Ltd
 - o Merit Recipient: ResearchMate by RMIT Advanced Cloud Ecosystem (RACE)

Details on each of our winners and merit recipients can be found below.

Each of the 2026 VIC iAwards winners will now compete for the coveted National iAwards title, which will be announced at the National iAwards Gala Dinner on 27 August. The AIIA iAwards are supported by the NSW Department of Customer Service, CDC Data Centres, the Digital Transformation Agency, Lenovo, Deloitte, Dell Technologies, Optus, DataDriven, Reason Group, the National AI Centre, Datacom, ServiceNow and KPMG. The AIIA thanks them for their commitment to supporting the tech sector. The AIIA is a not-for-profit organisation aimed at supporting and advocating for Australia's future social and economic prosperity through technology innovation.

MEDIA RELEASE

ENDS

For further information, please contact:

Media

David Makaryan

Advisor, Policy and Media

E: david@aiaa.com.au

AIIA's 2026 VIC iAwards - About the Winners

Stylometrics - Artist Style Fingerprint & AI Royalty System

Dheeren Vélú and Finbar O'Hanlon invented a patented "Stylometric" system that extracts a unique "Style DNA" from an artist's work. Tracking 72 signal-level elements, it creates a digital fingerprint that powers the world's first AI royalty payment rails, ensuring human creators are ethically protected and compensated in real-time.

Transforming Critical Event Responses in Hospitals

Medtasker's Emergency Response module digitises how hospitals coordinate their response to critical events, replacing pagers and manual processes with a single, real-time coordination platform. It enables rapid team mobilisation, automated escalation and visibility of response activity, improving speed, reliability and patient safety in life and death situations.

Vidversity

The Vidversity Digital Instructional Design Learning Coach is a research-backed AI mentor automating expert pedagogy. Built on 25 years of female-led expertise and Swinburne University research, it transforms raw data into secure, interactive video modules. It eliminates "AI slop" by embedding adult learning principles, democratising high-quality, inclusive digital education.

Automation of the Victorian Birth Registration Process

UiPath automated the deterministic aspect of the Birth registration process and also included AI for the non deterministic aspects in a safeguarded way, with compliance and controls. A 'human in the loop' protocol was adopted for any situation where the AI agent was not viable.

World-First Fully-Automated FBGs Nano-Manufacturing Machine

Innofocus nanoFACTORY r-FBG Machine is the world-first fully-automated, AI-driven roll-to-roll nano-manufacturing platform for high-precision FBGs. By integrating Australian-made nano-fabrication technologies and IoT-ready digital management, it transforms laboratory-setup fabrication into scalable, data-driven mass-production, delivering unprecedented efficiency, 95% yield, and next-generation intelligence to global markets including communications, sensing, AI infrastructure, and quantum-tech.

ROGER: Multi-Sensor Infrastructure Inspection Rover

ROGER is a breakthrough multi-sensor robotic platform combining 4K imaging, LiDAR, sonar, and AI to deliver near-total visibility of underground assets. With fibre-optic data

transmission and rapid AI driven analytics, it reduces reporting from months to days. Proven globally, ROGER is transforming infrastructure inspection, decision-making, and sustainability at scale.

Clean Up Cam AI Litter Analysis Tool

Australia's litter data was barely making it back from cleanups. Volunteers were asked to dump out rubbish and tally it at the end of a long day. Most didn't. Clean Up Cam replaces that with photo capture during the event. The data now flows. Volunteers know their impact.

ATLAS™ Long-Range Sovereign Cargo UAV for Remote Airfreight

ATLAS is a sovereign-designed long-range cargo UAV moving 50kg over 1,000+ kilometres within existing regulations. Built around unmet demand from Australia Post, it reduces emissions by up to 80%, lowers remote freight costs, and creates a scalable autonomous logistics layer purpose-built for regional Australia.

Multi-User Adaptive LLM Watermarking Scheme

A multi-user watermarking framework that invisibly fingerprints AI-generated text per user. When content is leaked or misused, organisations can trace it back to the responsible individual. The watermark survives paraphrasing, deletion, and collusion attacks; is undetectable to readers; and scales across enterprise LLM deployments.

1receipt® | Your E-Receipt Pal

1receipt® is a privacy-first, universal digital receipt infrastructure that eliminates paper waste without requiring personal data. Powered by a proprietary ML engine and rShield® protocol, it offers "Zero-API" integration for any POS. We've scaled to major retailers, saving millions of trees and litres of water.

Genomical - A Genomics Information Management System

Genomical is a purpose-built, cloud-based Genomics Information Management System that automates and orchestrates clinical genomic workflows, from sequencing through to reporting. By replacing fragmented, manual processes with secure, interoperable infrastructure, Genomical enables clinical laboratories to scale precision medicine delivery safely, efficiently and cost-effectively, benefiting laboratories, health systems and patients alike.