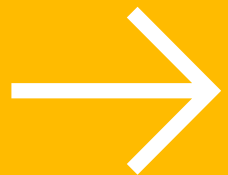




The UCU Innovations Hub

Expansion Strategy



November 2020



who we are

We are an innovations Hub based at Uganda Christian University, Mbale University College, who's among other aims is to support and encourage innovation and entrepreneurship in the region, create a platform for bright-minded individuals to network and develop solutions to problems in the societies from which they come from.





Executive Summary

The UCU innovations Hub started off with the sole aim of providing a place/platform for the Mentorship /Training of Students and the Community. The place was also among other things, provide technical, business and financial support to innovations as well as being the place for idea generation and development.

Central to our vision is the understanding that our Communities are imbued with endless ideas that can help rebuild this country and create order in every sector. Innovation has become the greatest driving force for development. Our world today is not only dynamic but interconnected and the internet has become central to the life of every society. Automation, therefore, is the way forward for any community.

In the confluence of the new technologies the region still lags behind not so much for the lack of innovations but rather a platform for self-expression technologically. The innovations Hub seeks to answer this need and help create an ecosystem of innovators, idea bearers, investors, and partners.

→ Proposal on Expansion

The program aims to develop a high technology hub that would also serve as an industrial park, where special incentives should encourage some multinationals into joint ventures with selected enterprises in the region. This we plan to start with fairly focused activities, which will involve setting standards and ensuring the quality of the work being done by young innovators/entrepreneurs. Such activities would include the expansion of the current innovations Hub.

The key will be to work with local and international firms in setting up activities that require the best of the locally available scientific input, as well as provide opportunities for the gradual ramping up to broader and better work, while giving our communities opportunities for hands-on work up to international industry standards.



Proposal on Expansion



EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES TO INCLUDE:

Agriculture

Testing labs for the quality of industrial and agricultural production for export

Automation

A place for training in vehicle repair and maintenance a sensationalized focus will be on the advanced car technology

Software

software programs handled by high speed IT links, and substantial computing platforms

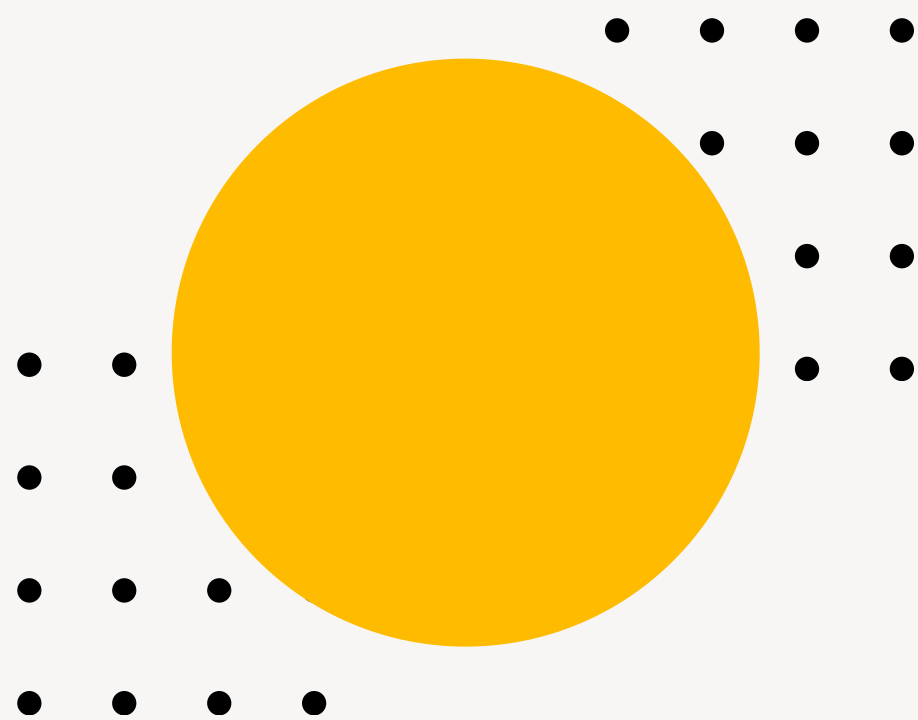
Tech

Have programs that help in talent development, production studios

Biology

Biological applications in science and in industry that aid in cleaning the waste of industry, pollution reduction technologies, moving from chemical to biological processes

Statement of Need



Apart from Central and western Uganda, there are limited innovation Hubs in other parts of this country, this has greatly disadvantaged people coming from the Eastern part who have great ideas but do not have a place to incubate them, the necessary collaboration and networks to make their ideas worthwhile.

Due to this majority of the innovations never go past the idea stage and or die at infancy The biggest challenge is that the majority of innovators and entrepreneurs cannot afford the costs associated with having to travel to the central region to pitch their cases. The needs in regions are also unique in the sense that innovation to answer a community need in The Eastern Region might not gain Viability in the central or western Region since it is not a need there.

The need is felt greatly in the areas of the tech, performing arts, crafts, smith works, metal fabrications, motor vehicle workshops, etc. As such there is a great need to expand our focus to cover these emergent needs

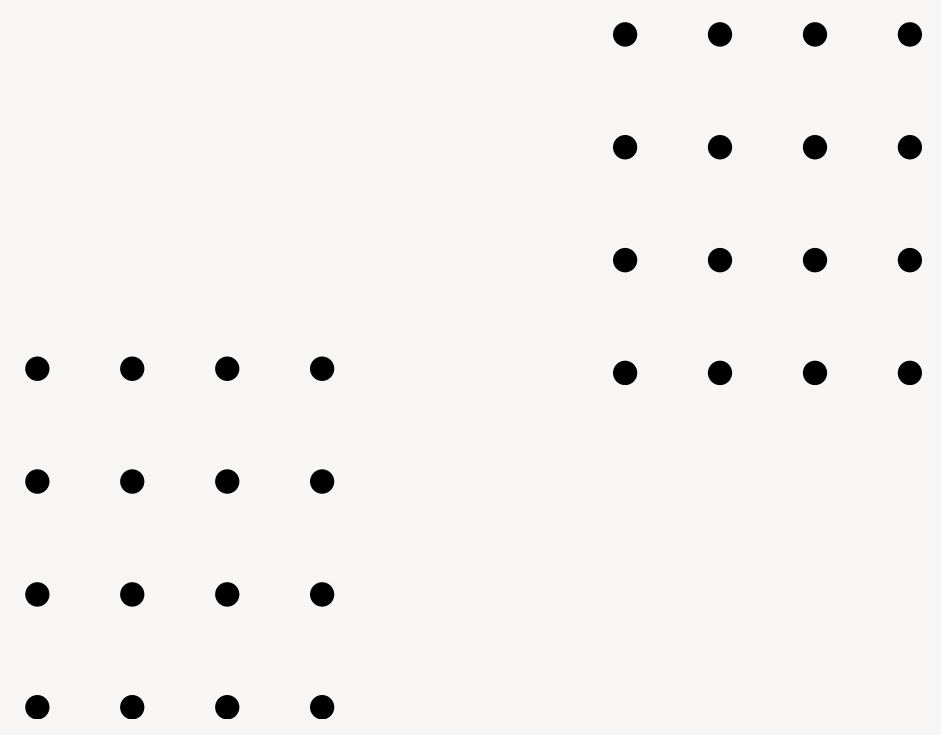
Solution

The Innovations Hub! will enable and provide opportunities for upcoming innovators /entrepreneurs and the community to contribute to the innovation's ecosystems. The learning institutions, and the community will greatly benefit from the different workshops/trainings and Hackathons' that will be organized regularly, of great benefit too, will be the networks that this place will provide and the opportunity to learn from the industry "Gurus".

The place will also provide opportunities in terms of start-up financing and soft loans to entrepreneurs and innovators through its regular innovations Expos.



The Innovation and— Entrepreneurial Landscape

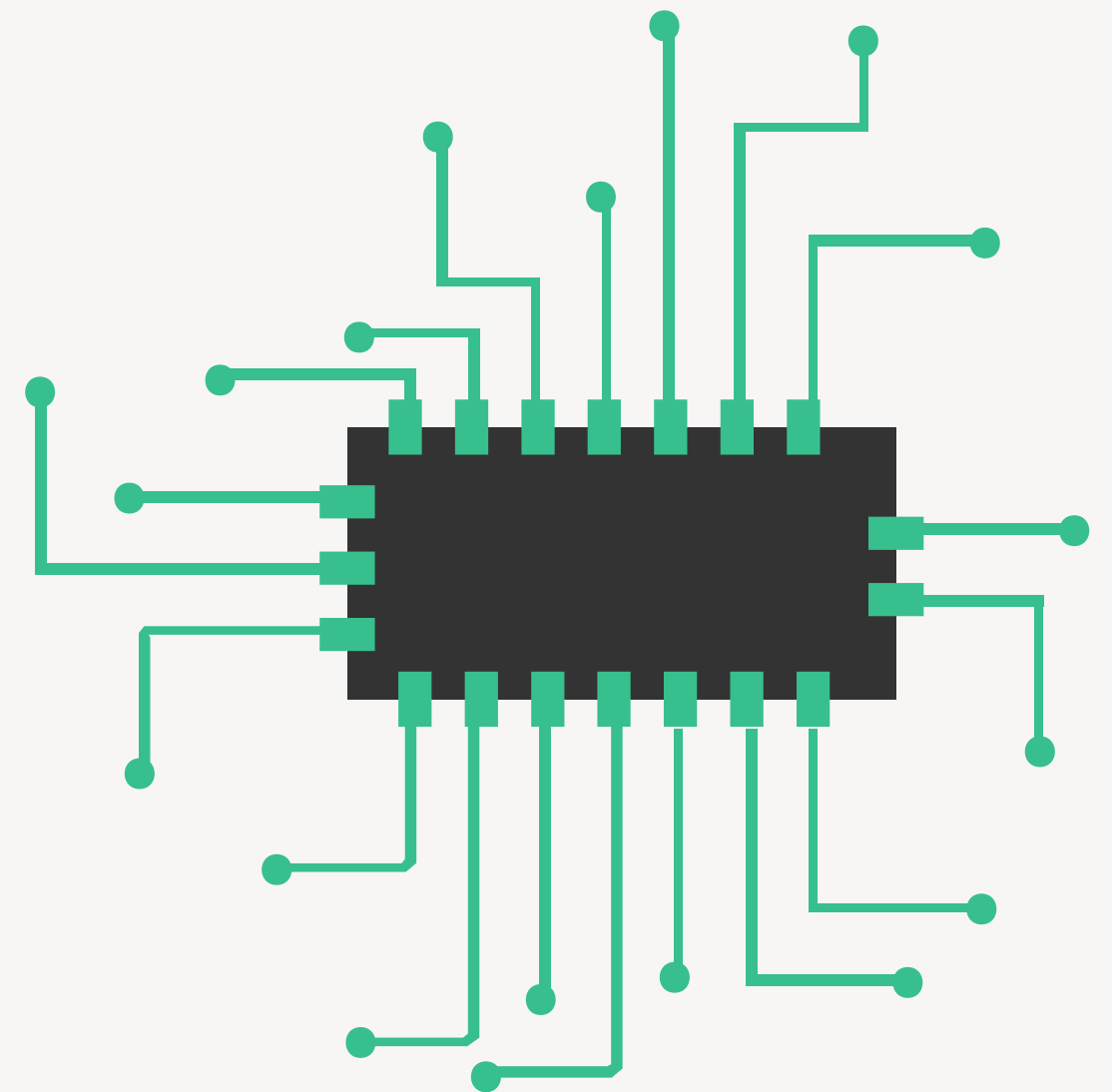


In recent years, several initiatives within the government and private enterprises have been undertaken to spur innovation. The most profitable companies and organizations today are those that are most innovative and dynamic. The University College aims to contribute to the global Innovation Ecosystem aiming to seek changes that lead to improved efficiencies, effectiveness, impact, and quality.

→ The Expansion

The UCU innovation Hub aims to expand its scope of activities and programmes to cover as comprehensively as possible all program in the region these will include;

- 1. The Tech Lab Space**
- 2. Motor Vehicle + Artisan Lab**
- 3. The walk in space + General Incubation + Freelance Space**
- 4. Arts Domain Space**



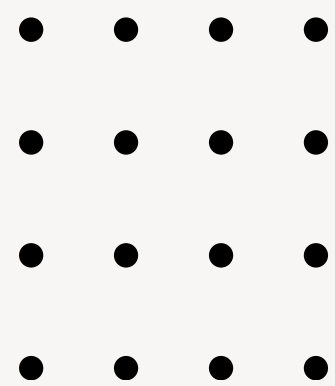
The Tech Lab Space



The tech lab will simply offer space for the deliberate support for innovation in tech. In particular we are to provide this space - an opportunity to majority of innovators to form and create strong networks- learn from industry gurus, tap into the available resources and benefit from apprenticeship training from the leading tech companies.



Motor Vehicle + Artisan Lab

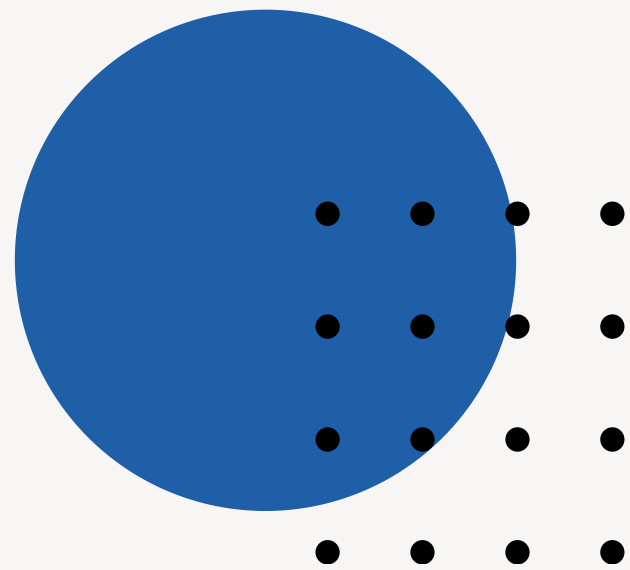


We take great note that society needs are ever-changing and the task ahead is to create a pool of young people that can develop new business models, harness the power of Information Technology to help create value and solve the societies challenges as well as create shared prosperity for the Region.

We recognize also that the most dominant cars on the African market have evolved to dominance mostly on the fundamentals of: deliberate market development by growing with communities, Gemba Focus, Collective Force and innovator spirit.

Because of this business model, jobs and sustenance for the majority of Uganda (And in extension Africans) who work in the “Jua Kali” Industry as mechanics were created. The challenge today we believe is the advance in technology, such as in the form of AI and IoT. This monumental structural transformation has left Africa behind and is tilting the automobile business landscape. More and more local mechanics who depend on car repair for their living are out of work since the modern car is beyond their scope of knowledge. We see a great need to train more people in this technology to prepare Africa for Future Cars.

The walk in space + General Incubation + Freelance Space



- The business in one way or the other will have to make returns on investment. It is proposed that the Hub will not only be open to students but the public who will access at a modest fee.
- We also propose work space for other incubators at a modest fee too.
- The hub will have startups of its own that are fully managed by the hub and also a shared benefit on the supported startups.
- The hub will offer business IT solutions to organizations and firms around the town and country especially in system design networking mapping etc.
- In this space we will conduct hackathons, trainings boot camps and workshops.

Arts Domain Space

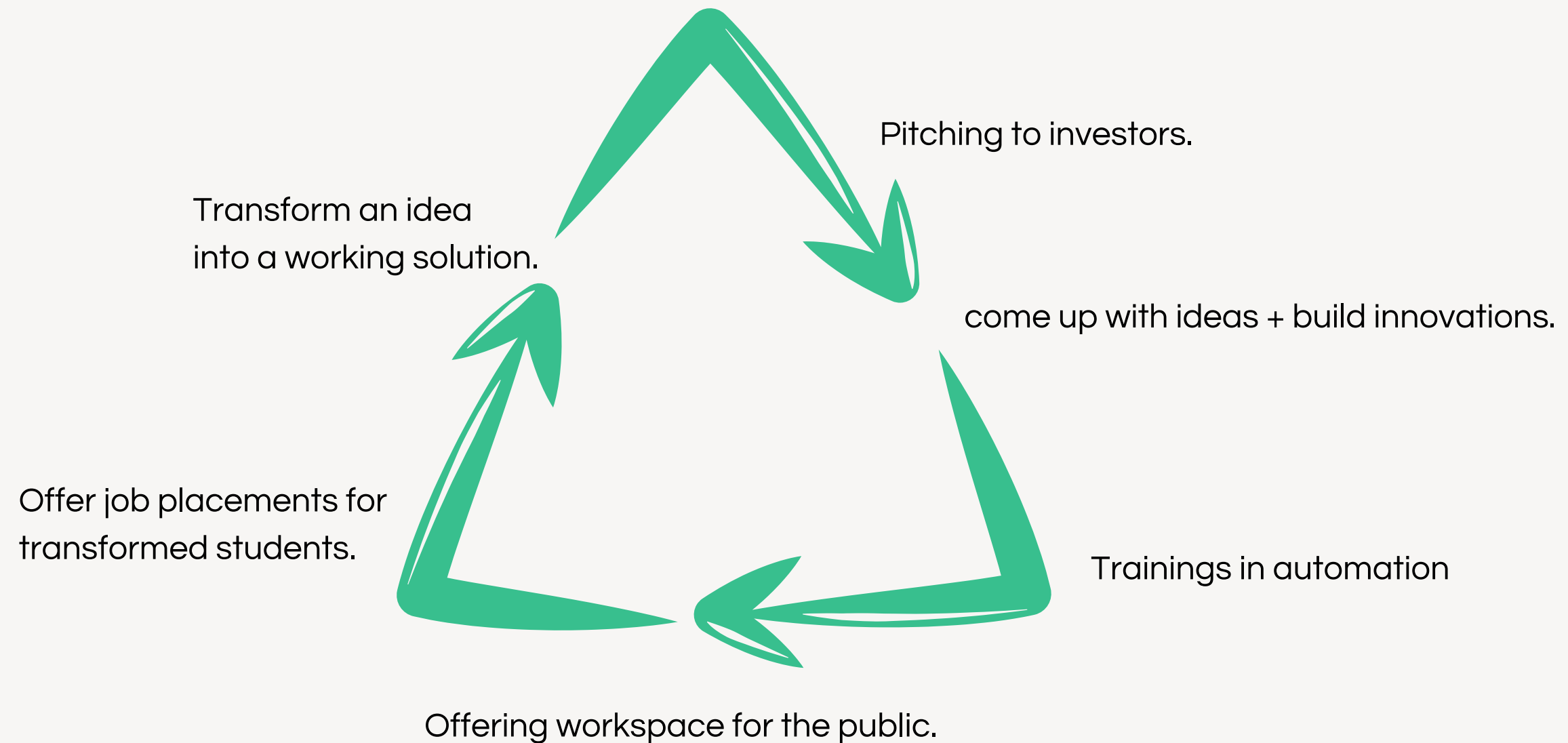


In the creative arts domain. have programmes that help in talent development, production studios this will cover Art, Music, Media among other things

Services

THE HUB IS TO PROVIDE;

Seed funding to these start ups and linking them
to suitable Networks Offering business



Mentorship | Automation | Creative arts | Innovation expos | Business incubation Hackathons | Pitching | Meetings/ conferences
| Boot Camps for the most remote schools in the region for: nursery, Primary and Secondary schools | Accelerator Challenges |
Sector Labs (Agriculture, Health, Education, Art, Music, Media).



Thank You.



November 2020