Qualcomm Institute at UC San Diego

Founded on innovation, driven by demand, and motivated by curiosity, the Qualcomm Institute at UC San Diego is where researchers, artists, students and academics come together to resolve grand challenges with new and daring ideas that test the limits of technology.

Established in 2000, the Qualcomm Institute continues to evolve from its roots as a collaborative research institute, known for prototyping and building enabling technologies, into a growing creative innovation institute that bridges gaps in research, education and entrepreneurship.

Qualcomm Institute Innovation Space (QIIS)

The Qualcomm Institute Innovation Space, or QIIS, is a unique environment where startup companies and industry partners come together to accelerate technology creation and commercialization. Since it opened its doors in 2014, QIIS has served as a launching pad for dozens of emerging companies in the fields of education technology, data science, medical technology, virtual and augmented reality and more.

Situated in the heart of the UC San Diego campus, QIIS provides space inside the Qualcomm Institute—a hub for technology-driven innovation—where tenants gain access to Qualcomm Institute services, as well as opportunities to collaborate with world-class faculty, researchers and students.

QIIS tenants are chosen based on their potential success and impact on the community. In addition to emerging companies, the Innovation Space also welcomes national laboratories interested in fostering research partnerships with the campus and building connections with startups and industry tenants to enable tech transfer directly from the lab to the private sector.
QIIS COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Comhear, one of the first QIIS tenants, is transforming the listening experience with technology that delivers an immersive, 3D audio experience through a single sound bar. With its YARRA 3DX Sound Bars, MyBeam and other innovative products, Comhear is bringing audiobeamforming technology developed at the Qualcomm Institute’s Sonic Arts Lab to the consumer market.

Learning Equality is driving a global campaign to bring openly licensed educational materials and blended learning tools to disconnected and low-resource communities in collaboration with the United Nations. Learning Equality’s open-source tools have already been deployed in over 175 countries and territories and receives funding from Google.org’s Global Education Commitment to expand a platform to provide access to a diverse set of learning resources for teachers and students in low-connectivity environments.
Additive Rocket Corporation (ARC), founded in 2015 by two UC San Diego graduates, is innovating the future of space exploration by developing 3D-printed metal rocket engines for the space industry. The ARC team is dedicated to providing value to satellite manufacturers, launch service providers, and government agencies through their expertise in additive manufacturing and optimization of fluid and heat flow. Through a partnership with the Qualcomm Institute's Prototyping Lab, ARC is also making 3D metal printing more accessible to industry and the public, allowing innovators to work with diverse materials and to design their products with fewer manufacturing limits.

Clinical Addiction Recovery Institute (CARI) is working to revolutionize treatment options for alcohol and opioid addictions through the creation of a new biomedical device. CARI has successfully leveraged its location within QIIS to find needed research and development partners within the UC San Diego Schools of Engineering and Medicine, receive valuable I-Corps training through the UC San Diego von Liebig Entrepreneurism Center, and avail itself of QI services, including proposal writing, which has helped it secure funding from both the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation.