Councillor Martin - QoN - AEDA Annual Report

Tuesday, 10 November 2026
Council

Council Member
Councillor Phillip Martin

Public

Contact Officer:
Anthony Spartalis, Chief Operating Officer

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Councillor Phillip Martin will ask the following Question on Notice:

'At the Council meeting of October 27, 2026, the 2025/26 Annual Report of the Adelaide Economic development Agency was approved, including, at page 10, the following stated outcomes for the year;

1. AUScelerate's (formerly MTPConnect) City of Adelaide based team supported a delegation including 11 city-based businesses to the world leading BIO26 International Convention held in Boston, US, and generated 75 business leads for clinical trials in Adelaide during the convention. The organisation also hosted an InvestHK delegation at the Adelaide Town Hall that showcased 9 city-based businesses, held a SouthStart masterclass for 55 founders in the health and medical sector that included 15 city-based businesses; launched the Adelaide Life Sciences Gateway brand, website and international marketing campaign and supported Avance Clinical's headquarters relocation into the Adelaide CBD (120 staff).

2 ThincLab's ThincSeed CBD program supported nine startups through a 13-week accelerator, with participants raising $1.57 million in capital since taking part, and selected a further 21 ventures into its second Pre-Accelerator

In respect of the travel to Boston in the United States funded by the ratepayers of the City of Adelaide and referenced at 1;

a what was the total number of persons in the delegation

b how many people were provided with supported travel across the 11 businesses

c what were the names of the 11 city-based businesses and how many were based on university premises, how many were based in rateable City of Adelaide properties and how many were based outside the City of Adelaide LGA, and

d what was the AEDA total contribution to the travel to and in the United States

In respect of the support of ThincLab's ThincSeed CBD program referenced at 2;

a what were the names of the nine start ups

b how many of the start ups were based on university premises, how many were based in rateable City of Adelaide properties and how many were based outside of the City of Adelaide LGA and

c what was the AEDA total contribution to this initiative?'

REPLY

1. The City of Adelaide Economic Development Strategy states, “We will partner with organisations and businesses such as MTPConnect, Renew Adelaide, SouthStart and the University of Adelaide’s ThinkLab, to support start-up businesses throughout the start-up business lifecycle.”
2. Through its Strategic Partnerships Program, AEDA funds organisations that have the skills and experience to drive economic activity, create or relocate jobs and premises, and grow businesses in the city. The AUScelerate and ThincLab’s ThincSeed CBD program are among six organisations funded by AEDA and operate out of premises within the Adelaide CBD.
3. In June 2026, MTPConnect changed its name to AUScelerate as part of an organisational rebrand. References to AUScelerate in this reply relate to the organisation formerly known as MTPConnect.
4. AEDA supported AUScelerate’s delegation to the 2026 BIO International Convention (the Convention) in San Diego, USA, from 22 to 25 June 2026 through the Strategic Partnership Program – the 2025/26 agreement between AEDA and AUScelerate identifies international engagement, partnerships and investors, and participation in BIO Partnering Congresses as agreed activities.
5. The 2025/26 AEDA Annual Report incorrectly refers to Boston as the 2026 host city. The 2026 Convention was held in San Diego, while the 2025 Convention was held in Boston.
6. The South Australian delegation comprised 43 delegates representing 17 organisations, including 26 delegates from City of Adelaide based businesses.
7. Of the 17 participating organisations, 11 were city-based businesses and 6 were based outside the City of Adelaide.
8. The 11 city-based businesses are listed in Table 1. Of these 11 businesses:
   - 8.1 Eight were based in properties rateable by the City of Adelaide;
   - 8.2 Three were based in properties not rateable by the City of Adelaide.

Table 1

	Business Name	Address	Rateable	Nature of the property if not rateable
1	Agilex Biolabs Pty Ltd	23 Gray Street, Adelaide	Yes	—
2	Avance Clinical Pty Ltd	Level 22, 91 King William Street, Adelaide	Yes	—
3	Bentleys (SA) Pty Ltd	Level 5, 63 Pirie Street, Adelaide	Yes	—
4	BiomeBank	Level 2, 21 North Terrace, Adelaide	Yes	—
5	CMAX	21 North Terrace, Adelaide	Yes	—
6	Madderns	Level 4, 19 Gouger Street, Adelaide	Yes	—
7	OmnigeniQ	Formerly Enterprise Hub, 9 Light Square (at the time of the conference); Since then have expanded to the US with staff and partners remaining in Adelaide	No	University premises
8	PARC Clinical Research	Royal Adelaide Hospital, Adelaide	No	Public hospital premises
9	Qubigen	Lot Fourteen, North Terrace, Adelaide	No	Lot Fourteen premises
10	RDI Partners Pty Ltd	Level 2, 169 Pirie Street, Adelaide	Yes	—
11	Syneos	Level 30, 91 King William Street, Adelaide	Yes	—

9. No representatives from the 11 participating city businesses received travel funding support from AEDA.
10. AUScelerate funded one of its Directors to attend the Convention as a representative through the International Delegations component of the total budget they received ($130,000 in 2025/26) through the Strategic Partnership Program funding agreement with AEDA. The total cost of attendance (flights, accommodations, meals, and incidental expenses) was $11,258.

11. The nine startups supported through ThincLab's ThincSeed CBD Program are listed in Table 2. Of the nine startups:

    11.1 Six are based on university premises;

    11.2 One is based at Lot Fourteen;

    11.3 One is actively seeking suitable CBD Office space;

    11.4 One is based in a rateable City of Adelaide property; and

    11.5 None are based outside of the City of Adelaide LGA.

Table 2

No.	Business Name	Address	Rateable	Nature of the Property
1	Affinyx	ThincLab, 10 Pulteney Street, Adelaide SA 5000	No	University premises
2	FLDT	Suite 416, 33 Pirie Street, Adelaide SA 5000	Yes	Commercial office premises
3	Lotis	ThincLab, 10 Pulteney Street, Adelaide SA 5000	No	University premises
4	Partsmen	ThincLab, 10 Pulteney Street, Adelaide SA 5000	No	University premises
5	SA Nano Pty Ltd	ThincLab, 10 Pulteney Street, Adelaide SA 5000	No	University premises
6	TestInvest	Stone & Chalk, Lot Fourteen, North Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000	No	Innovation precinct premises
7	Tutbob	ThincLab, 10 Pulteney Street, Adelaide SA 5000	No	University premises
8	USTYLER	Actively seeking suitable CBD office space and continuing to receive ThincLab mentoring and coaching	TBC	
9	Xylogic	ThincLab, 10 Pulteney Street, Adelaide SA 5000	No	University premises

12. In addition, ThincLab provides ThincSeed Program participants access to its co-working space for ongoing incubation and support.

13. Through the Strategic Partnerships Program, AEDA's funding contribution to ThincSeed over the 2024/25 to 2027/28 program period is $549,920, including $165,000 in 2025/26 and $165,000 in 2026/27.

14. To support the success of the program, ThincLab contributes a further $636,936 in in-kind support over the partnership period, including mentoring, program delivery and administrative services.

Staff time in receiving and preparing this reply	To prepare this reply in response to the question on notice took approximately 9.5 hours.

- END OF REPORT –