

Participant Information Sheet

Title: Requirements, Specifications & Piloting of Interoperable Ecosystem Cluster Management

Short Title: Interoperability of Digital Ecosystems in Business Clusters

Project Number: 110945

Project Sponsor: The Future Energy Exports Cooperative Research Centre (FEnEx CRC)

Chief Investigator/ Principal Investigator: Prof. Markus Stumptner

Supervisors: Dr Matt Selway, Dr Karamjit Kaur

Associate Investigator(s): A/Prof. Nina Evans

Introduction – What does my participation involve?

This Participant Information Sheet informs you about the research project and explains the processes involved in participation. Please read this information carefully and do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or need further clarification. Our contact information is noted below.

Your participation in this research involves responding to an anonymous online survey and possibly engaging in a follow-up interview if you indicate your willingness to participate further. At the end of the survey, you may provide your contact details if you wish to be considered for this interview. These contact details will be stored separately from the survey results to ensure confidentiality.

By completing and submitting the questionnaire/survey, you indicate that you have read and understood the content in this Participant Information Sheet and consent to participate in this research. If you choose to participate in follow up interviews, you will be asked to sign the consent form at the time of the interview.

What is the purpose of this research?

The purpose of this research is to identify the key business requirements, challenges, and the necessary supports required for establishing and maintaining digital ecosystems within business clusters. This work is significant as it aims to fill knowledge gaps in relation to digital interoperability in business clusters and would guide the project team in developing standards and specifications, and demonstrable implementations, to address the identified business requirements.

What does participation in this research involve?

Participation in this stage of this project involves completing an online questionnaire that takes approximately 15-20 minutes. If you choose to participate in the follow-up interview, one will be scheduled at your convenience after we complete an initial analysis of the survey responses.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

Participants may gain insights into their organisation's operational/technical challenges and business requirements regarding participating in business clusters and business networks or the potential value in supporting interoperable digital ecosystems for such clusters. Further, participants and the broader practitioner community benefits from the development of solutions (e.g., standards or specifications) that support business cluster interoperability, opening opportunities for improvements to efficiency and value in working with partners.

What are the possible risks and disadvantages of taking part?

It is not anticipated that there are any risks to participation in this study. Survey questions do not request any personal information or involve any sensitive issues that could lead to distress. If you indicate your willingness to participate in follow up interviews, the provided information (e.g., contact details) will be handled with strict confidentiality protocols.

Do I have to take part in this research project?

Participation for both the survey and the follow up interviews is voluntary; you are free to withdraw from the survey at any time by closing your web browser. The data can be withdrawn at any time without any consequences. Requests for withdrawing collected data can be sent to Karamjit.Kaur@unisa.edu.au with the reference number or return code autogenerated in the survey. Please be aware that withdrawing data from the survey may compromise the anonymity of your responses, as it will require linking your answers to an identifiable reference number.

What will happen to information about me?

The online survey is intended to be anonymous. All records containing personal information will remain confidential and no information which could lead to identification of any individual will be released unless required by law. Every effort will be made to ensure that responses are kept confidential. However, the researcher cannot ultimately guarantee the confidentiality or anonymity of material transferred by email or the internet. Your information will be stored securely in UniSA managed applications or servers. Only the research project team will have access to the information.

What if something goes wrong?

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your participation in the study or the handling of your data, please feel free to reach out to the research team at any time. Our contact details are provided below.

What happens when the research project ends?

At the end of the project, the data collected will be analysed and compiled into reports and publications to share the findings with the scientific community and industry stakeholders. No personally identifiable information will be included in these reports or publications. All data will be securely disposed of after a retention period of 10 years.

Who is organising and funding the research?

This research is organised by the University of South Australia and funded by the Future Energy Exports Cooperative Research Centre (FEnEx CRC). The research team consists of Prof Markus Stumptner, AsPr Nina Evans, Dr Matt Selway, and Dr Karamjit Kaur. Our partner organisations include [MIMOSA](#), a not-for-profit industry trade association from the USA.

Who has reviewed the research project?

The ethical aspects of this research project have been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) of the University of South Australia as required by the Australian government research requirements, specified in the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2023). This statement has been developed to protect the interests of people who agree to participate in human research studies.

Further information and who to contact

The person you may need to contact will depend on the nature of your query. If you want any further information concerning this project or if you have any problems which may be related to your involvement in the project, you can contact the following people:

Research contact person

Name	Karamjit Kaur
Telephone	+61 8 8302 3500

Email	Karamjit.Kaur@unisa.edu.au
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If you have any complaints about any aspect of the project, the way it is being conducted or any questions about being a research participant in general, please contact:

Reviewing HREC approving this research and HREC Executive Officer details

Reviewing HREC name	University of South Australia Human Research Ethics Committee
HREC Executive Officer	Human Ethics Officer
Telephone	+61 8 8302 6330
Email	humanethics@unisa.edu.au