

## SmartSat Launches Maya Nula Research Program to Develop Australian Agricultural Intelligence from Space

- *New space capability enabling climate resilient and sustainable farming needed to safeguard Australia's position as a global leader in agricultural production and technology development*
- *SmartSat to help build a measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) tool for communicating sustainable practices on soil health, crop conditions, biosecurity, and the environment*
- *Maya Nula Program aims to assist Australian farmers and businesses become more sustainable and profitable, with SmartSat poised to co-invest with government, industry, and research on targeted projects*

Adelaide, 23 May 2023 – [SmartSat Cooperative Research Centre \(CRC\)](#), Australia's leading space research centre, has launched a new research program, 'Maya Nula', to develop Australian satellite Earth Observation (EO) capability with space sensor technology to advance Australia's agriculture industry.

The name Maya Nula, which translates to "eyes here, there, everywhere" in the Dharug language, aims to create an agricultural intelligence capability from space. The SmartSat-led initiative will facilitate innovative research projects to address the growing need for Australian farmers to reduce risk and boost agricultural productivity through environmentally friendly processes. It will also support implementing and reporting on improved climate-resilient and sustainable farming practices.

SmartSat will develop a series of projects to deliver a measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) tool for communicating sustainable farming practices on soil health, crop conditions, biosecurity, and the environment. The projects will be co-funded by research organisations, government, and industry.

SmartSat CEO, Professor Andy Koronios, says that space assets combined with on-ground sensor technology can assist in monitoring crops and developing more sophisticated prediction models to better guide commercial outcomes and protect our environment.

"With the world's population predicted to reach 9.8 billion by 2050, sustainable farming practices are essential to meet the increasing demand for high-quality food. Through enhanced agricultural intelligence using terrestrial and space technologies, Maya Nula will enable our farmers to deliver higher yields of healthy food, meeting our needs and increasing exports of our agricultural products."

"SmartSat is committed to protecting and preserving our natural resources alongside First Nations people, who have a deep understanding of Australia's land and conservation practices. By integrating climate resilience and supply provenance practices into farming, Maya Nula can help Australian farmers adapt to changing

weather conditions, minimise crop failures, ensure a stable food supply, higher efficiency and maintenance of profits and maintain market access,” Professor Koronios adds.

Maya Nula Research Program Lead and SmartSat Principal Scientist in Earth Observation, Dr Jasmine Muir, says that the program will be a necessary and meaningful investment to ensure the security and prosperity of Australian farming’s future under changing climate scenarios.

“As we look to safeguard and enhance Australia’s agriculture sector for the coming years, sovereign space-based monitoring capability is critical. It is essential we start to plant the seeds of technology development now to ensure Australian agriculture is at the cutting edge in the decades ahead.”

Using SmartSat Maya Nula Capability Demonstrator funding, SmartSat will develop a comprehensive work program partnering with R&D centres, government, universities, and industry to develop the Maya Nula research program.

ENDS

#### **SMARTSAT CRC ENQUIRIES:**

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#### **ABOUT THE SMARTSAT CRC**

The [SmartSat Cooperative Research](https://smartsatcrc.com/) Centre brings together over 100 national and international partners who have invested over \$190 million, along with \$55 million in Federal Government funding under its Cooperative Research Centres Program, in a \$245 million research effort over seven years. Working closely with the Australian Space Agency & Department of Defence, SmartSat is making a strong contribution to the Australian Government’s goal of tripling the size of the space sector to \$12 billion and creating up to 20,000 jobs by 2030. Priority industry sectors for SmartSat include telecommunications, agriculture and natural resources, and defence and national security. <https://smartsatcrc.com/>