

MEDIA RELEASE

Singapore's Public Service Celebrates Science, Technology and Engineering (STE) Excellence and Innovation at the Public Service STE Festival 2026

Singapore, 19 May 2026 – The Public Service Science, Technology and Engineering (STE) Festival (**STE:Fest**) was held this morning, bringing together more than 1,200 STE professionals from across the Public Service. The Guest-of-Honour for the event, which had the theme “Building our Future with Science, Technology and Engineering”, was Minister for National Development Chee Hong Tat.

2. Previously known as the Public Service STE Conference, the STE:Fest serves to recognise and celebrate STE excellence and innovation in the Public Service and raise awareness of STE workstreams across the Government.

3. A key highlight of the STE:Fest was the STE Excellence Award (EA) and STE Innovation Challenge (IC) showcase and award ceremony. The STE EA recognises outstanding Public Service STE projects that through innovative approaches and solutions have delivered impactful outcomes for our citizens and communities, while the STE IC is a “hackathon”-style challenge designed to foster innovation and encourage participating teams to develop impactful and scalable solutions. Five STE EA awards and three STE IC awards were presented to the winning teams by Minister Chee (see **Annex A** for the list of awards).

4. A major draw for the STE:Fest, which was held at the University Cultural Centre at the National University of Singapore, was the exhibition which showcased projects and workstreams from 30 government agencies. These included the projects by the 19 finalist teams for both the STE EA and STE IC as well as four additional pavilions on the themes of: (1) Engineering Together through System-of-Systems Synergies and Optimisation, (2) Enhancing Public Safety with Robotics & AI, (3) From Space to Earth for a Safe, Sustainable and Smart Future, and (4) Modelling & Simulation for Smarter Decisions.

5. A refreshed STE IC was also launched at the STE:Fest. The refreshed IC would strengthen support for participating teams across the innovation journey from problem framing to solution development to pilot deployment. This would be done through design innovation workshops and bootcamps, supported by mentors drawn from both the public and private sectors. The 2026 edition of the STE IC will be on the theme of “Building a resilient and sustainable Singapore”, with a focus on food, water and heat resilience, as well as waste management.

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About the Public Sector Science & Technology Policy & Plans Office (S&TPPO)

The Public Sector Science & Technology Policy & Plans Office (S&TPPO) is a department under the Prime Minister's Office. S&TPPO works with Public Sector agencies to build a first-class, future-ready Public Service through harnessing science, technology and engineering to advance national and agency priorities and achieve greater impact.

ANNEX A

Award	Award Category	Agency	Project
STE Innovation Challenge (IC) Winners	Distinguished Award	A*STAR	Singapore Integrated Transport & Energy Model (SITEM)
	Merit Award	JTC	Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Deployment with Flexible Overhang Structural System
		NEA	Enhancing Coastal Water Quality Modelling Capabilities
STE Excellence Award (EA) Winners		PUB	Building New Connection into Existing Deep Tunnel Sewerage System (DTSS)
		DSTA, MHA and SCDF	Crisis & Incident Management C3 System (CIMS) Capability for the Whole-of-Government
		BCA and URA	CORENET X
		HTX and ICA	Redefining Border Security: Passport-less Clearance, Enhanced BIKES & Tell-Tale Indicators
		HDB and PUB	Singapore's First Polder at Pulau Tekong