

2026

The logo consists of several interconnected circles of varying sizes, some with smaller circles inside them, creating a network-like structure. The circles are light blue and white, set against a background of blue and green geometric shapes.

# KiwiNet Research Commercialisation Awards

**Exclusive sponsorship  
opportunities**

# Your front row seat to an inspiring future. The only event of its kind in New Zealand.

Every year, in research institutes across New Zealand, a spark is lit. A new idea emerges. A breakthrough takes shape. A possibility becomes a prototype, then a pathway to something bigger than any one researcher, entrepreneur or team.

The KiwiNet Awards exist to honour these sparks shaping our future, and the people behind them. Since 2002, this event has grown into the country's premier celebration of research commercialisation, where science-based innovation takes centre stage.

Demand for the Awards has never been stronger - every year the room sells out, the stories reach national media, and the momentum grows. This year will be no different.

In 2026, more than 350 innovators, investors, commercialisation leaders, founders, industry partners and government decision-makers will gather for an evening of celebration, connection, and inspiration. It's a room where future-defining ventures are revealed. Where conversations turn into collaborations. Where the country's most exciting commercialisation pathways are showcased to the people who can help accelerate them.

By joining us, you won't just be supporting the sector - you'll be placing your organisation at the heart of it.

Read on for sponsorship opportunities in 2026. We'd love to partner with you to celebrate the ideas and people lighting the way to Aotearoa's future.



Ngā mihi nui,  
**James Hutchinson**  
CEO, KiwiNet



# About KiwiNet

KiwiNet brings together a community of science pioneers with the ambition to solve some of Aotearoa's biggest problems, from health, to the environment, energy, agriculture, and beyond.

The Kiwi Innovation Network (KiwiNet) is the combined power of Aotearoa New Zealand's universities, Crown Research Institutes (CRIs), and other research organisations who receive public funding. This diverse group pools knowledge and resources to support and accelerate research commercialisation, taking scientific discoveries from lab to the world and creating long-term impact for our country and communities.

Together, KiwiNet partner organisations represent a total research expenditure of \$800 million and 80% of the publicly funded research organisations in New Zealand.

**2162**

projects funded

**102**

start-up  
companies formed

**\$746M**

in known financial  
returns for NZ

**686**

commercial deals  
since 2003



# Why the KiwiNet Awards?

- **Meaningful connection** at the only event of its kind that brings together 350+ attendees and leaders from the science, research, investment, government, and business communities.
- **Unmatched visibility** through widespread media coverage and online promotion.
- Alignment with a sector **at the forefront of solving global challenges**.
- **Solidify your influence** as a key supporter of commercialisation, at a time when NZ is looking to strong partners to guide innovation trajectory.
- **Early access to talent and deal-flow**, meeting the people and teams building tomorrow's high-growth ventures.



25%

of attendees are start-up, commercialisation or business leaders



40%

attendees from universities or research organisations



19%

from innovation and deep-tech organisations



15%

investors, VCs, and fund managers



26,241

impressions across 10 sponsor social media posts



2,093

engagements across social media posts mentioning sponsors



70%

of news articles on the KiwiNet Awards mentioned sponsors



72

sponsor mentions across 30 news reports



# Sponsorship packages

## Awards category sponsor (5 available) - \$7,500

### **Sponsor benefits:**

- Logo exclusively linked to Award category of your choosing
- Promotion of your brand across KiwiNet and Awards channels - in the evening programme, social media, PR and news media (where category is named), on stage during the evening, and image/logo displayed on screen during evening drinks
- Opportunity to announce the category winner, and present award on stage
- **Exclusive access to our VIP pre-drinks**, held before the Awards evening networking - a private reception for the Awards finalists, sponsors and key VIPs.
- Opportunity to display branding at the event in the main event room
- Brand profile on the KiwiNet website
- 3 complimentary tickets to the event

## Commercialisation Icon Award sponsor (1 available) - \$4,500

### **Sponsor benefits:**

- Sponsored by' naming rights on award category, eg.: 'Commercialisation Icon Award, sponsored by '[brand]'
- Promotion of your brand across KiwiNet and Awards channels - in the evening programme, social media, and winners press release, and on stage during the evening
- **Exclusive access to our VIP pre-drinks**, held before the Awards evening networking - a private reception for the Awards finalists, sponsors and key VIPs.
- Opportunity to display branding at the event
- Brand profile on the KiwiNet website
- 3 complimentary tickets to the event

## Sponsorship packages continued

### Evening dinner sponsor (1 available) - \$8,000

#### Sponsor benefits:

- Sponsorship of plated dinner service for guests (prepared by Urban Gourmet catering)
- 'Lead sponsor' promotion of your brand across KiwiNet and Awards channels - 1-page feature profile in the evening programme, social media posts, website, and key acknowledgement on stage during the event.
- **Exclusive access to our VIP pre-drinks**, held before the Awards evening networking - a private reception for the Awards finalists, sponsors and key VIPs.
- Logo featured on menus (4 per table)
- Promotion of brand during 20-minute dinner break
- Opportunity to display other branding at the event in the main event room
- Feature branded profile on the KiwiNet website
- 5 complimentary tickets to the event

### Networking sponsor (1 available) - \$6,000

#### Sponsor benefits:

- Sponsorship of networking time before and after the Awards formalities (5pm-7pm and 9pm-10:30pm) in the pre-function bar area.
- Promotion of your brand across KiwiNet and Awards channels - in the evening programme, social media, website, and on stage during the evening
- **Exclusive access to our VIP pre-drinks**, held before the Awards evening networking - a private reception for the Awards finalists, sponsors and key VIPs.
- Exclusive opportunity to display other branding in the bar area
- Opportunity to provide brand-themed drinks, cocktail, or other elements (where appropriate and in consultation with catering company)
- Branded profile on the KiwiNet website
- 5 complimentary tickets to the event
- Exclusive access and connection with finalists, if requested

## Sponsorship packages continued

### Dessert sponsor (1 available) - \$3,000

#### Sponsor benefits:

- Sponsorship of dessert table, served at the bar after the Awards formalities (9pm-10:30pm) in the pre-function area.
- Promotion of your brand across KiwiNet and Awards channels - in the evening programme, social media, website, and on stage during the evening
- **Exclusive access to our VIP pre-drinks**, held before the Awards evening networking - a private reception for the Awards finalists, sponsors and key VIPs.
- Opportunity to display other branding in the bar area / on the dessert table
- Opportunity to provide ingredients / products associated with your company to be incorporated into the dessert menu (where appropriate and in consultation with catering company)
- Branded profile on the KiwiNet website
- 2 complimentary tickets to the event

### Keynote speaker sponsor (1 available) - \$7,000

#### Sponsor benefits:

- 2-min speaking slot to introduce keynote speaker on stage (speaker chosen by KiwiNet in consultation with sponsor)
- Promotion of your brand across KiwiNet and Awards channels - in the evening programme, social media, website, and on stage during the evening
- **Exclusive access to our VIP pre-drinks**, held before the Awards evening networking - a private reception for the Awards finalists, sponsors and key VIPs.
- Opportunity to display other branding at the event in the main event room
- Brand profile on the KiwiNet website
- 3 complimentary tickets to the event

# Expressions of interest

**Be a part of something special. We are taking applications and expressions of interest for 2026 sponsorship now.**

To register your interest, for further information, or to discuss other sponsorship opportunities for the KiwiNet Awards, please contact:

May Low  
COO, KiwiNet  
may.low@kiwinet.org.nz  
021 065 2496

For more information on the Awards, past events and winners, please visit [www.kiwinet.org.nz/Awards](http://www.kiwinet.org.nz/Awards)

## **Terms & Conditions**

This document is not a contract. KiwiNet reserves the right to refuse or revoke any sponsorship application at their discretion. All sponsor benefits are conditional on receiving payment, marketing material, and other necessary items in a timely manner. It is up to the sponsor to supply all relevant promotional material at their own cost.

Sponsorship will be confirmed on receipt of the signed Sponsorship Agreement, which will be provided to you once your intention to sponsor has been confirmed. Payment terms will be outlined in the Sponsorship Agreement.