AZERBAIJAN TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

SDG REPORT 2026

Sustainability Office

SDG 9
INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

AT A GLANCE

Research, start-ups and industry working together

SDG 9 calls for resilient infrastructure, sustainable industrialisation and innovation. Over the past year AzTU funded applied research from its own budget, opened laboratories with industry partners, moved joint research towards industrial use and grew its start-up pipeline through the Incubation Center.

Reporting period November 2025 – October 2026

UN targets addressed: 9.4 · 9.5 · 9.b

1.29M

AZN allocated to 14 internal research projects for 2026

Evidence E7

87

start-up ideas pitched at two Startup Days

Evidence E6, E8

3

new laboratories opened with industry partners

Evidence E5, E15, E16

4

years of joint research with Azeraluminium, now in semi-industrial tests

Evidence E20

POLICY AND COMMITMENT

Commitments set out in published policy

Sustainability Policy, 5.4

v2.0 · 2026

Support for interdisciplinary and applied research, and dissemination of research outcomes that contribute to societal and technological advancement.

Evidence E2

Sustainability Policy, 5.5

v2.0 · 2026

AzTU cooperates with public authorities, industry, civil society and international partners. Stakeholder engagement supports knowledge exchange and innovation.

Evidence E2

Lifelong Learning and Community Education Policy, 1

v1.0 · 2026

Aims to strengthen university–industry cooperation, transfer scientific potential to industry and create economic value through the Lifelong Learning School.

Evidence E3

Quality Assurance Policy, 5.3–5.4

v3.0 · 2026

Research is backed by suitable infrastructure and international partnerships. Engagement with employers and industry partners is monitored systematically.

Evidence E4

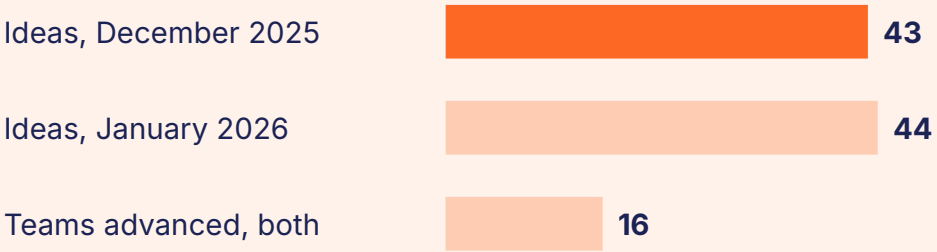
KEY INDICATORS

Start-up activity and applied research in numbers

November 2025 – October 2026, counted from published news

Startup Days at the Incubation Center, Dec 2025 and Jan 2026

87 start-up ideas pitched over two editions



Run with the Startup Azerbaijan platform. The January edition included students from TAU and the National Aviation Academy.

Internal grant competition, January 2026

14 winning projects, selected by independent experts

- AI-supported mobile robot that detects corrosion in cranes
- WIRE-FREE-BUS: wireless power transfer for public transport
- New solar collector design and smart hot-water management
- Water purification from heavy metals with local natural zeolites

Total allocation 1,285,150 AZN. The projects run throughout 2026.

Also: 3 laboratories opened with industry partners · SmartSolutions Hackathon 2026 with AzInTelecom, April 2026

Evidence: E6, E7, E8, E18

KEY INDICATORS, 2023–2025

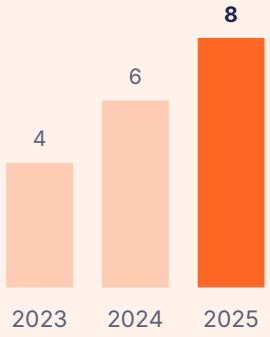
Innovation capacity grew year on year

As reported in the SDG 9 Report 2025 (rev2). The report cites AzTU News, the Research Office and other internal records.

Innovation labs on campus

8

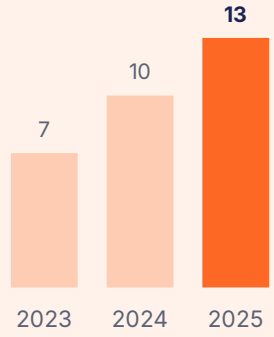
+100% since 2023



MoUs with tech companies

13

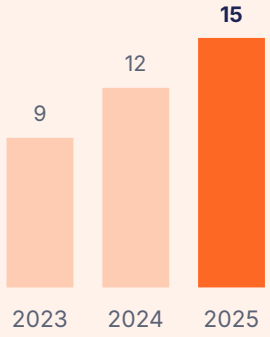
+86% since 2023



R&D projects with industry partners

15

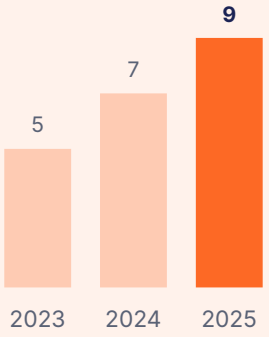
+67% since 2023



International joint research projects

9

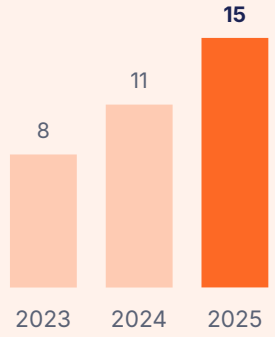
+80% since 2023



Start-up initiatives supported

15

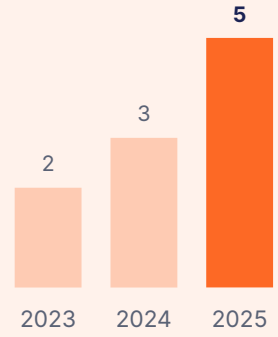
+88% since 2023



Major digital and energy upgrades

5

+150% since 2023



Calendar-year figures. The rev2 report does not attach project-level records; they will be checked before submission.

Evidence: E1



THE IMPACT METRIC

9.3

University spin-offs and start-ups

How AzTU helps students and staff turn ideas into companies: incubation, competitions and state recognition.

IN THIS SECTION

Incubation Center · Startup Days · Hackathons · Start-up certificates

9.3 · SPIN-OFFS AND START-UPS

Startup Days: from idea to prototype in two days

December 2025 · Incubation Center

Students pitched 43 start-up ideas. Eight teams advanced, built first prototypes and business models with mentors, and presented to a jury that judged innovation, technical justification and implementation potential.

January 2026 · With TAU and the National Aviation Academy

44 ideas, 8 selected. The winning team, Timeless History, brought together AzTU and NAA students.



16
teams advanced to prototyping

Startup Days, January 2026

Evidence: E6, E8

9.3 · SPIN-OFFS AND START-UPS

Student start-ups that won recognition

ChatX gets state start-up status

27 April 2026

KOBIA certified ChatX, co-founded by AzTU students. Its innovation revenue is tax-exempt for three years.

Evidence E21

SmartSolutions Hackathon 2026

13 April 2026

Run with AzInTelecom and Startup Azerbaijan. AzTU teams took first place in both categories.

Evidence E18

First place in Khankendi

4 May 2026

An AzTU start-up won the competition at the Intellectual Youth Festival and a 3,000 AZN grant.

Evidence E22

University Demo Day

10 February 2026

FocsMode placed 3rd at ADA University and won 40% scholarships from ABB Tech Academy.

Evidence E13

SoilMate at Caspian Agro 2026

12 May 2026

A student-built robot that measures soil pH, moisture and salinity in real time for farmers.

Evidence E23

Game Summit 2026

12 May 2026

AzTU's team won first place against students from nine other universities.

Evidence E24



THE IMPACT METRIC

9.4

Research with industry and commerce

How AzTU links its research with companies and public agencies: joint projects, shared laboratories and agreements.

IN THIS SECTION

Joint research · Industry laboratories · Agreements · Defence industry

9.4 · RESEARCH WITH INDUSTRY

Four years of joint research reach semi-industrial tests

23 April 2026 · Azeraluminium, Ganja

A joint AzTU–Azeraluminium team is developing a way to produce aluminium from Zaylik alunite ore without prior beneficiation. The first three tests in a five-tonne semi-industrial reactor confirmed the results.

Next step

The partners agreed to draw up a new roadmap. The method could also yield potash fertiliser, gypsum and sulphuric acid.



5 t

semi-industrial test reactor

Visit to the test facility, April 2026

Evidence: E20

9.4 · RESEARCH WITH INDUSTRY

Laboratories built with industry partners

DISC Lab
1 December 2025
With Dithari Technologies: circular IT, refurbishment of equipment, green technologies and start-up support. Open to professionals and the public.

FinTech Lab
24 February 2026
With the Azerbaijan FinTech Association (AzFina): joint projects with payment institutions and e-money organisations.

Water Lab
25 February 2026
With Aqualink LLC: water treatment technologies, pollution reduction and student research.

Nar laboratory
25 February 2026
Mobile-network lab from a partnership of more than 10 years. Cooperation priorities for 2026 agreed.



3
new labs opened with industry

FinTech Lab opening, February 2026

Evidence: E5, E15, E16, E17

9.4 · RESEARCH WITH INDUSTRY

Agreements that link research, training and industry

ADEZ, Ministry of Economy

17 April 2026

Memorandum on research, staff training, industrial internships, mentoring and consultancy.

Evidence E19

MIT Academy LLC

9 February 2026

Memorandum on joint research, production processes and curricula aligned with labour-market needs.

Evidence E12

Andersen LLC

28 January 2026

Memorandum on development programmes in AI and fintech, trainer training and student internships.

Evidence E9

Azerbaijan Airlines (AZAL)

2 February 2026

Cooperation in mechanics, automation, power engineering, IT and logistics. A joint action plan was agreed.

Evidence E11

Ministry of Defence Industry

29 January 2026

Joint working group on graduate placement, joint project supervisors and six-month practical training.

Evidence E10

Twin Researcher project

23 February 2026

Pairs AzTU staff with partner researchers from universities and industry, focused on applied research.

Evidence E14

9.4 · RESEARCH WITH INDUSTRY

University–defence industry cooperation at ADEX 2026

30 September 2026 · Baku Expo Center

AzTU organised the academic session “From Knowledge to Technology”, moderated by its Rector, with rectors from BSU, ASOIU, BHOS, Gebze Technical University and Ege University and the Deputy Minister of Defence Industry.

30 September – 2 October 2026 · AzTU stand

Student engineering projects and defence-focused start-ups were shown to local and international visitors.



Academic session at ADEX 2026

Evidence: E25, E26

LINKS TO OTHER SDGS

Innovation work that serves the other Goals

4 Quality Education

Industry partners help shape curricula: Andersen, MIT Academy, AZAL, the defence industry.

6 Clean Water and Sanitation

Water Treatment and Management Laboratory opened with Aqualink LLC.

7 Affordable and Clean Energy

Grant projects on solar collectors and wireless power for public transport.

8 Decent Work and Economic Growth

State start-up status for ChatX; internships agreed with ADEZ, Andersen and AZAL.

12 Responsible Consumption and Production

DISC Lab refurbishes IT equipment and reduces electronic waste.

17 Partnerships for the Goals

Partners: Dithari, AzFina, Aqualink, Nar, Azeraluminium, Startup Azerbaijan.

PRIORITIES FOR 2027

From activity counts to verified innovation results

01

Register spin-offs

Record companies formed from AzTU research, separately from student start-ups, with dates and IP links.

02

Report industry research income

An annual AZN total from finance records and research contracts with companies.

03

Publish staff headcounts

Total employees and academic staff from a dated HR extract, with the counting method.

04

Take results to market

Use the Technology Transfer Office to license the Azeraluminium method and other results.

05

Track the 2026 grant projects

Report prototypes, patents and industry uptake from the 14 internal grant projects.

EVIDENCE

Sources behind this report

Code	Evidence	Date
E1	SDG 9 Report 2025 (rev2)	Oct 2026
E2	Sustainability Policy v2.0	2026
E3	Lifelong Learning and Community Education Policy v1.0	2026
E4	Quality Assurance Policy v3.0	2026
E5	DISC Innovation and Sustainability Laboratory launched	1 Dec 2025
E6	Next Startup Days held at AzTU	9 Dec 2025
E7	Winners of the Internal Grant Competition	5 Jan 2026
E8	AzTU student teams win at Startup Days	26 Jan 2026
E9	Memorandum with Andersen LLC	28 Jan 2026
E10	Joint working group with the Ministry of Defence Industry	29 Jan 2026
E11	AzTU and AZAL begin collaboration	2 Feb 2026
E12	Memorandum with MIT Academy LLC	9 Feb 2026
E13	FocsMode 3rd at University Demo Day	10 Feb 2026

Code	Evidence	Date
E14	Twin Researcher project	23 Feb 2026
E15	FinTech Laboratory opened with AzFina	24 Feb 2026
E16	Water Treatment and Management Laboratory opened	25 Feb 2026
E17	AzTU and Nar set cooperation priorities for 2026	25 Feb 2026
E18	SmartSolutions Hackathon 2026 winners	13 Apr 2026
E19	Memorandum with ADEZ	17 Apr 2026
E20	First phase of AzTU–Azeraluminium research completed	23 Apr 2026
E21	KOBIA start-up certificate for ChatX	27 Apr 2026
E22	Start-up first place at Khankendi festival	4 May 2026
E23	SoilMate robot at Caspian Agro 2026	12 May 2026
E24	AzTU team wins Game Summit 2026	12 May 2026
E25	Academic session at ADEX 2026 organised by AzTU	30 Sep 2026
E26	AzTU showcases innovative projects at ADEX 2026	30 Sep 2026

Every title links to its public source on aztu.edu.az.

Azerbaijan Technical University

Sustainability Office

REPORT	SDG Report 2026
GOAL	SDG 9 · Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
ADDRESS	25 H. Javid Avenue, Baku AZ1073, Azerbaijan
WEBSITE	aztu.edu.az/sdg

