GRDC invests $35M to drive machine automation and intelligent technology for grain growers

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GRDC Managing Director Nigel Hart launched the Grain Automate initiative last night (Thursday, 25 July) at the Innovation Generation 2024 conference on Queenslandâ??s Gold Coast.

This GRDC future-focused initiative will include a portfolio of up to 30 new research, development and extension (RD&E) investments complementing GRDCâ??s dynamic research in ag tech, precision agriculture, digital agronomy and advanced analytics.

The decision by GRDC to invest in this progressive space on behalf of Australian grain growers comes amidst projections that the global market for autonomy and intelligent systems will reach $272 billion by 2027.

initiative would focus on three primary programs:

Program one: Paving the way for autonomyÂ which aims to ensure growers have the training, knowledge, skills and infrastructure to integrate fully autonomous machine capabilities within their farming systems.

Program two: Targeted technology developmentÂ which will optimise existing and emerging technology for machine automation and autonomy and adapt or improve them to meet the requirements of Australian grain growers and their cropping systems.

Program three: Building intelligent systemsÂ which will leverage machine automation and autonomy against other innovations - on-farm and pre- and post-farm gate - to extract the maximum possible long-term value for Australian grain growers.