



AVPI Sector Brief: Digital Cooperation

Vietnam's Vision for Strategic Technologies

Vietnam's [National Strategy](#) envisions a fully digital society, encompassing government, the economy, and society. It aims to see Vietnam become a regional digital leader, with the digital economy contributing ~30% of GDP by 2030. This will require near-universal 5G coverage, international-grade data centres, undersea fibre-optic cables, and cloud, artificial intelligence (AI) and 'internet of things' (IoT) technology development.

E-government platforms like the Vietnam Electronic Identification (VNeID) and the National Public Service Portal aim to bring all administration services online by 2025 to enhance transparency, efficiency, and access. [New Digital Technology laws](#) provide significant incentives for industry growth and guidelines for ethical development and cybersecurity across four key areas:

Fiscal Incentives

Government funding and tax breaks for high-tech innovation and data centres; covering R&D, infrastructure, and duty-free equipment imports.

Digital Workforce

5-year income tax exemptions for local experts, work permit exemptions and 5-year visas for foreign experts, and government support for digital education and training.

Emerging Tech

Regulation includes ethical AI standards, including prohibitions on specific AI applications, compliance for high-risk AI systems, and labelling for AI-powered products.

Virtual Assets

Legal distinction and state regulation for virtual and crypto assets to prevent cyber and financial crimes, and a regulatory sandbox enabling virtual asset tech innovation by select businesses.

The Australian Context

The Australian Government has set its own goal of Australia become a leading digital economy and society by 2030. This is underpinned by a whole-of-government 'Data and Digital Government Strategy' with five core objectives: 1) delivering for all people and business (equipping businesses to adopt e-commerce and cybersecurity tools); 2) simple and seamless secure service access (through digital identity initiatives such as 'myID'); 3) a 'government fit for the future' (i.e. utilising emerging technologies for service provision); 4) ensuring systems are trusted and secure (with robust privacy and security measures); and 5) establishing strong data and digital foundations (updating the Australian Public Service as an exemplar of world-class digital system development and data management).

Vietnam's Key Industry Partnerships

International Community

The Australia - Vietnam Enhanced Economic Engagement Strategy commits to advancing digital trade, cybersecurity, infrastructure, and e-government transformation. Vietnam holds similar partnerships with other countries including South Korea, Japan, Estonia, Malaysia, Indonesia and the United States.

Industry Leaders

Large international corporations such as Google, Nvidia and Nokia have invested significantly in Vietnam, with a focus on R&D, AI tech and digital infrastructure.

Universities

The Australia-Vietnam Strategic Technologies Centre, a collaboration between the University of Technology Sydney, The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Vietnam's Ministry of Science and Technology is a leader in 5G/6G research, cybersecurity, and digital transformation. Other collaborations include: RMIT University Vietnam, British University Vietnam, Vietnam-Korea University of Information and Communication Technology, National University of Singapore and various local universities.

Key Challenges Facing Vietnam

Infrastructure Gap & Digital Divide

In Vietnam, rural and remote regions lack reliable high-speed internet, widening socio-economic disparities. Vietnam still lags in data infrastructure, such as undersea cables and power stability.

Workforce Shortage & Skill Gap

A digital skills gap persists in Vietnam, with an insufficient workforce for AI, cybersecurity, and advanced digital services.

Cybersecurity & Trust Challenges

As in many countries, increasing cyber threats including malware, phishing, and other privacy concerns pose risks to users in Vietnam with the potential to undermine trust in digital services.

Opportunities for Collaboration

Knowledge Exchange & Research Collaboration

Workshops, academic programs, and study tours connecting Vietnamese officials, industry leaders, and researchers with Australian expertise in urban innovation, digital transformation, and sustainable development.

Australian Business Engagement in Vietnam

Investment incentives, business matchmaking, and trade missions to help Australian companies navigate Vietnam's rapidly evolving market and establish high-impact collaborations.

Policy Expertise in Digital Governance

Policy dialogues, technical advisory programs, and regulatory exchanges that support Vietnam in establishing best practices for cybersecurity, AI governance, and data privacy.

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