

A high-angle, close-up view of the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco during sunset. The bridge's iconic orange-red steel structure dominates the right side of the frame, with its suspension cables fanning out towards the left. The background shows the San Francisco Bay, with hills and city lights visible in the distance under a warm, orange-hued sky.

Advanced Innovation Program

How do they manage innovations in Silicon Valley?

Strategic Management Program

19-23 October, 2026

San Francisco, USA

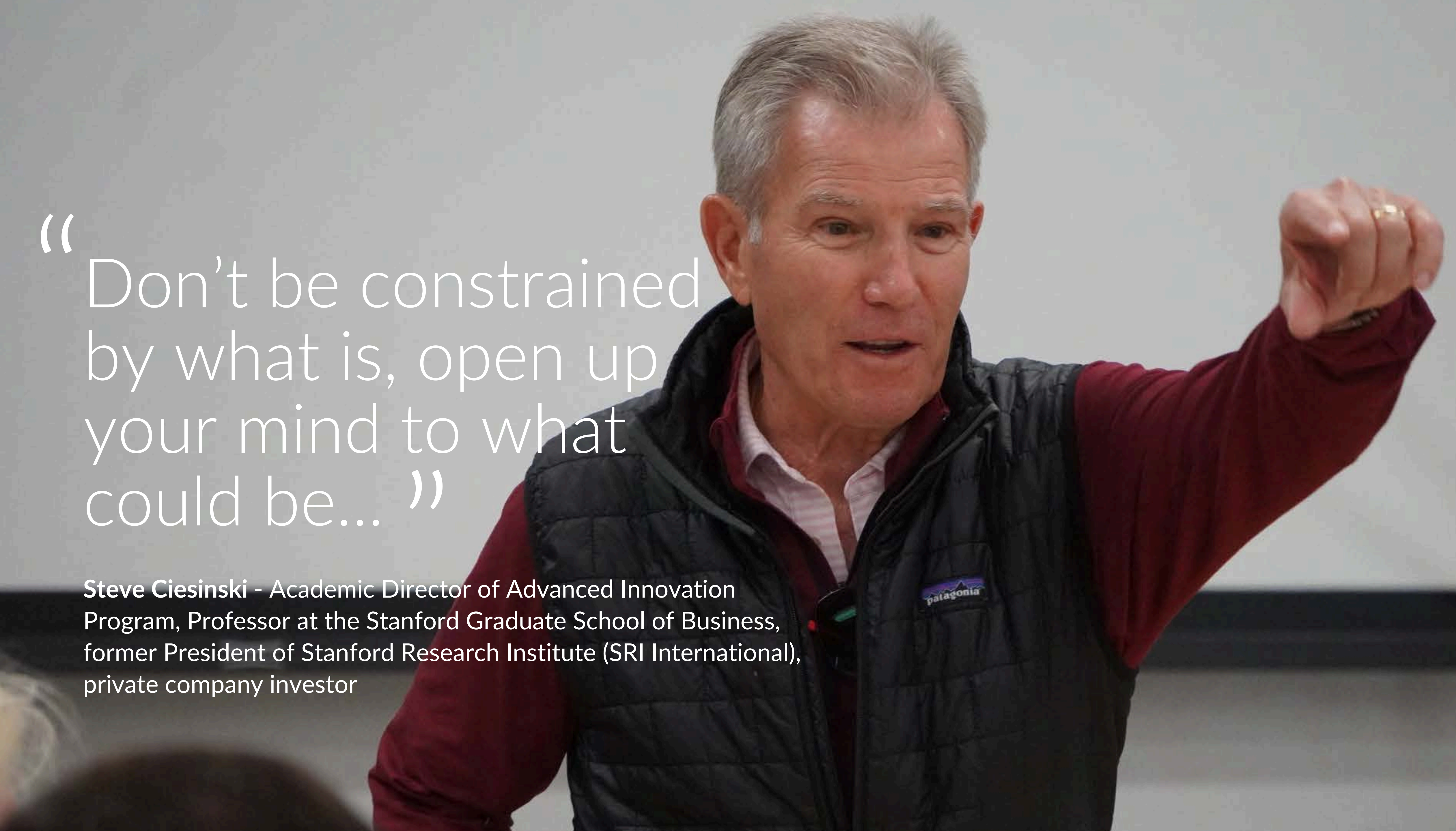


How to succeed in a dynamic arena

We have created a unique program that is unlike any offered in Europe thus far. The most prominent professors and top experts from Silicon Valley will unfold the secrets of investment management and its behind-the-scenes operation. Sessions are held on Stanford campus and at Stanford Research Institute, where participants will learn about the innovative technologies SRI labs are working on. Participants discover how exemplary innovations will affect business models in the next few years. AIP will provide you with the opportunity to exchange experiences and network with some of the best investors and innovators in the world.

Key benefits of participating

1. You will attend sessions with prominent professors and researches from Stanford Graduate School of Business and SRI International
2. You will discover methodology behind the ongoing innovations in Silicon Valley
3. You will learn how the innovations from Silicon Valley can affect your company's strategies and business models within the next 3-5 years
4. You will visit some of the world's pioneering organizations and laboratories
5. You will establish long-lasting professional connections with international and Polish investors
6. You will receive a double Certificate from both SRI International and Queen Hedvig Academy

A middle-aged man with grey hair, wearing a dark quilted vest over a maroon long-sleeved shirt, is speaking and gesturing with his right fist raised. He is wearing a gold ring on his right ring finger. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

“ Don’t be constrained
by what is, open up
your mind to what
could be... ”

Steve Ciesinski - Academic Director of Advanced Innovation
Program, Professor at the Stanford Graduate School of Business,
former President of Stanford Research Institute (SRI International),
private company investor

They trusted us:

“The Advanced Investment Program, organized by the Queen Hedvig Academy and the Stanford Research Institute, focuses on presenting key aspects of investment conducted in Silicon Valley. During the week-long trip, time is divided between visits to the most prestigious companies in Silicon Valley, meetings with representatives of investment companies and investors, and substantive classes taught by sensational lecturers. If someone wants to learn about the differences in investing in Poland and Silicon Valley, talk live with representatives of VC funds, refresh and supplement investment knowledge, this is a program definitely worth recommending. I had a lot of expectations for participation, they were realized at 120%.”

Artur Jedynak
CEO KBJ S.A.

- AIP edition 2023

“During the program, we visited numerous companies that are genuinely shaping the future. Professor Steve Ciesinski also invited us to a three-day workshop on Silicon Valley and the venture capital ecosystem. It was an exceptionally practical confrontation of theory with everyday reality—the sessions were led by partners from top-tier VC funds, the very people who invested in early teams and startups the world had never heard of before. Today, these startups have become global unicorns. This knowledge will be invaluable in the next stages of my work and planned investments. Anyone actively investing in Polish startups and technologies should consider taking part in this program.”

Tomasz Misiak
Founder Mizyak Fund

- AIP edition 2025

Double Certificate from SRI International and Queen Hedvig Academy



“The content of the lectures and the talents of the lecturers are of a very high standard. Condensed knowledge from practitioners (the majority of whom are also local VC angels), complemented by speeches from fund managers, founders and business lawyers working with local VCs, rounds off the experience. I highly recommend it. Meeting local startups is very educational and helps to overcome any complexes that may exist.”

Maciej Zientara
Founder, Managing Partner Supernova Group
- AIP edition 2024

They trusted us:

“The AIP program at Stanford University was an incredible experience that definitely allowed me to learn a lot and meet amazing people—entrepreneurs, fund managers, as well as top-tier scientists and academic lecturers of the highest global standard. For someone who has been professionally involved in the IT industry for over 25 years, most of that time as an entrepreneur, it felt like being in the temple of entrepreneurship and the global capital of startups, with access to unlimited capital. Everything was organized flawlessly. I highly recommend it to both entrepreneurs and those in the VC industry.”

Jarosław Łukasiewicz
Managing Director CEE & Europe Cohesive Poland
- AIP edition 2024

“AIP is an excellent program, both in terms of substance and practicality. A balanced mix of theory and practice. It offers insights from the VC perspective, investment management methods, as well as the Entrepreneur’s point of view. An absolutely unique networking group of participants, facilitators, and invited guests. Practical exposure to how Stanford University and the vast SRI laboratory operate. An intense and highly productive time, both in the official sessions and the social and cultural aspects. Conversations lasted late into the night. The result is a complete shift in thinking about investments and business management, especially startups.”

Grzegorz Pawlak CEO
Alliance Technology Polska
- AIP edition 2024

They trusted us:

“Developed for decades in Silicon Valley, the ecosystem for supporting and commercializing innovation is today a benchmark for economies in developed countries and emerging markets, including Poland. The Advanced Investment Program, which opens the door to this world, is a “must be” for those interested in or professionally involved in the broader Venture Capital market. Meetings and discussions with entrepreneurs with a path from idea to IPO, business angels, or managers managing global VC funds guarantee a solid dose of knowledge and an invaluable source of inspiration. On the other hand, discussions with Program participants and exchange of experiences are a value in themselves.”

Krzysztof Laskowski

Partner, Legal Advisor, Head of Companies Law Practice at LSW

- AIP edition 2023

“I spent a week at Stanford in Palo Alto, learning how this magical place works in practice. There were many meetings with unicorns, conversations with entrepreneurs and experts who work there every day. During AIP with the participation of 16 experts, founders, or heads of companies and organizations from Silicon Valley, I was able to understand why it is here that projects that change the world are created. A workshop with the Head of SRI, and a tour of the institute with a robot demonstration showed that this legendary institution has gone down in history as the birthplace of the internet, autonomous (and now even flying) cars, and the Siri voice assistant for a reason, and is currently actively working on 600 innovations. The whole program combined practice, strategy, and direct contact with those who are shaping the future. It was an experience that confirmed my belief that innovation is born where science meets business and the courage to act.”

Bartosz Skwarczek

Founder & CEO, G2A Capital Group

- AIP edition 2025

Content

▶ Evaluating Venture Opportunities	▶ Valuation Methodology and Term Sheets
▶ Entrepreneurial Finance and Financial Planning	▶ Ownership and Returns – how Ventures are „Valued” by Investors
▶ Governance and Board Meetings – from Basic to Advanced Structures	▶ Investor and Entrepreneur – Meeting and Dating
▶ Capturing Value in Different Innovation Stages	▶ Exiting from Investments

Is the Program right for you?

The Program is designed for investing entrepreneurs and executives who wish to broaden their business horizons through exchanging experiences with some of the best investors in Silicon Valley. The Program is particularly aimed at those who want to understand how the Venture Capital system works in Silicon Valley, and how the innovations from the Bay Area can influence the business strategies of participants' companies and organizations in the upcoming years.

Advanced Innovation Program aims at:

- ▶ Entrepreneurs
- ▶ Board Members
- ▶ Corporate Partners
- ▶ Investment Fund Executives and VCs
- ▶ Business Strategists
- ▶ Prospective Investors
- ▶ Fund Seekers

Our faculty



Steve Ciesinski

Academic Director of Advanced Innovation Program, Professor at the Stanford Graduate School of Business, Managing Director, Vencrest Partners

Steve Ciesinski is the former president of Silicon Valley-based SRI International, one of the world's leading independent R&D organizations. SRI is famous for the development of SRI voice application and the Da Vinci robot and other world-changing innovations. Steve has considerable familiarity with a wide variety of business models and partnership arrangements, as well as the issues in board governance. He is an active angel investor and assists several international and Silicon Valley-based private companies as an advisor and a board member. Steve has participated in, or managed, numerous strategic events, including new businesses' formations, major product launches, private financings, IPOs, M&A transactions and leveraged buyouts. His three startup and investment courses at the Stanford Graduate School of Business have been popular for thirteen years.



Peter Marcotullio

Senior Vice President, Commercial Business Development

Peter Marcotullio has more than 20 years of business development experience. Currently he directs commercial sector business development for SRI International. Focusing on strategic, long-term partnerships with clients, he directs market research and analysis, intellectual property management, commercialization and business strategy development, new venture creation, and marketing. His management experience includes various venture, business development, and merger-and-acquisition positions. Peter holds a B.S. degree in mechanical engineering from Lehigh University. He has taken graduate and executive management courses at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management and Stanford University School of Business. Peter is also a graduate of the Defense Acquisition University's Defense Systems Management College.

Our faculty



Eric Chen

Partner; OVO Fund
Experienced technology investor
focusing on early stage Internet and
enterprise IT opportunities in the US
and China



Manish Kothari

Managing Director and Partner First
Spark VC; Former President of SRI
International
Passionate about the creation of new
ventures at the intersection of
advanced technology and user-
centered design.



Touraj Parang

President and COO, Board
Member; Serve Robotics
Technology entrepreneur, investor,
and author. Invests in and advise
early-stage startups across high-
growth industries including
robotics, AI, fintech, e-commerce,
security, legal tech, and small
business software.



JJ Singh

Chairman, Board of Directors; Stanford
Angels and Entrepreneurs
Executive Chairman of Subtle Medical
(Neural Network AI) and Movn Health
(Agentic AI)
Serial Investor, advisor to several
companies.



Faysal Sohail

Managing Partner, Presidio Partners
Investor and Entrepreneur. Led several
investments in technology and energy
space, including robotics, information
security, energy, semiconductors and
software.

Methodology

▶ Case studies

This method uses real business situations and examples, encouraging participants to find workable and effective solutions to problems. Our case studies reflect universal problems common in all companies and are therefore valuable exercises for the Program's participants.

▶ Summarizing sessions

At the end of each day of the Program, there is a comprehensive concluding session, which helps the participants to consolidate their newly acquired knowledge and run through the most important takeaways of the day.

▶ Group work and workshops

Advanced Innovation Program provides the opportunity, as part of its curriculum, to engage in group work to exchange and integrate experiences while arriving at common solutions.

▶ Company visits

The participants can put the learnings from case studies in real-life scenarios while visiting some of the world's leading organizations, getting a closer look at the factors delivering the entrepreneurial success.

▶ Presentations

To facilitate the learning process and enhance interactivity, our faculty creates teaching materials of the highest quality for the benefit of the Program's participants.

▶ Networking opportunities

The networking events held during the Program will grow the participants' professional networks, as well as provide them with a chance to obtain new perspectives from outside their sector or corporate environment.

Agenda*

19-23 October, 2026

October 17th **optional**

Arrival at the hotel

Free time in the evening

October 19th

Visiting world's
leading companies
located in Silicon Valley

October 21st

Sessions at Stanford
University's Campus
Networking sessions
with VCs from the Silicon
Valley

October 23rd

Sessions at Stanford
University's Campus
Certificate-granting
ceremony at the
Stanford University
Celebration Dinner

October 18th **optional**

Muir Woods
National Park
Napa Valley Wine
Country

October 20th

Sessions at SRI
International
Visiting laboratories,
Nomura Bank tech
incubator

October 22nd

Sessions at Stanford
University's Campus
Cocktail with Polish
community

*The final Agenda will be announced before the start of the program.

Date

19-23 October, 2026

PROGRAM FEES

General fee: **€ 7 800 + VAT**

Alumni fee: **€ 7 200 + VAT**

Multiple registrations from the
same company (min. 3 participants):
€ 7 200 + VAT

The fee includes the classroom materials as well as most
of the expenses related to meals and local
transportation.

The fee does not include the accomodation, flight
tickets, insurance costs, trip to Muir Woods National
Park and Napa Valley Wine Country.

[Link to Application form](#)



Contact the Program Director:

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About Queen Hedvig Academy

► Experience

Queen Hedvig Academy team has more than 20 years of experience in designing and delivering educational programs tailored to the needs of the most demanding clients. Our diverse client portfolio includes leading global corporations, prominent Polish companies, organizations rooted in the CEE region, companies operating locally and those expanding their presence in European and global markets.

► Experts

We collaborate with renowned institutions such as IMD (Lausanne, Switzerland), Mahindra University (Hyderabad, India) and Stanford Research Institute (Silicon Valley, USA). Sessions in our programs are delivered by scholars and experts from top universities and research centers across the world.

► Networking

Our alumni have the opportunity to join one of the strongest alumni networks in the CEE region. Regularly organized alumni meetings, both formal and informal, provide a platform for the exchange of knowledge, experience, and contacts, as well as mutual business inspiration. These meetings foster a sense of belonging to an exclusive community of professionals who are constantly improving their competencies and skills.



About Stanford Research Institute (SRI International)

► What is SRI

SRI International is a nonprofit, independent research center dedicated to serving government and industry clients. The company operates from its headquarters in Silicon Valley, as well as offices and laboratories throughout the United States and Tokyo. SRI's Center for Innovation Strategy and Policy (CISP) helps the organizations and regions in achieving long-term economic and social impacts through effective investments in science, technology, and innovation.

► Innovations

SRI has been a leader in pioneering technologies that have significantly influenced the modern world, to mention only few of them: ARPANet, the foundation for today's internet; Da Vinci Surgical Robot, the first robotic surgery system, transforming precision and accessibility in medical procedures; Siri, the first virtual personal assistant; MOTOBOT, the first autonomous motorcycle; SynFini, an automated platform for chemical drug discovery and the first online banking solutions. These innovations highlight SRI's role in creating solutions that enhance safety, health, and productivity globally.



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We add values