The annual Firefly Awards celebrate the best of ideas, and recognise teams and individuals within the MTI Family who have exemplified strengths in the respective Award categories. This year, A*STAR GIS received a team award in recognition for our hard work in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In April 2020, the Ministry of Health approached A*STAR and partners for assistance in setting up a large-scale COVID-19 testing facility, as an integral component of an overall national strategy to boost the nation’s testing capacity for COVID. In response to this urgent request, A*STAR tasked GIS to lead Operation Stronghold, an all-of-A*STAR effort to build the Stronghold Diagnostics Laboratories (SDLs).

More than 300 A*STAR researchers and staff went above and beyond their duties by volunteering to setup a centralised COVID testing facility to support national efforts to ramp up testing capacity. This was achieved swiftly through leveraging existing facilities and expertise, including forging key partnerships.