

# The Statesman

## University Challenge to develop cargo aircraft

StaTESMAN NEWS SERVICE

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Teams from five leading Indian universities presented their conceptual designs to Lockheed Martin here launching the C-130J Roll-On/Roll-Off University Design Challenge to develop cargo aircraft modules for disaster relief operations worldwide.

Over the next year, the company will fund grants for each university team to work with local industry partners and mentors from the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to develop design specifications for their proposed modules. In addition to funding,

Lockheed Martin will also support each team with engineering, technical and business development expertise.

The company will award three of the teams a second-year grant in November 2015 to develop a prototype of their module, as well as additional mentoring to develop a go-to-market strategy.

At the end of the design challenge, Lockheed Martin will work with each team to explore options with government and industry to mature the prototype for global markets.

"Perhaps more important than producing viable prototypes from this design challenge are the lessons in innovation and collaboration the students will gain from working hands-on with partners in government and industry," said Dr. Ray O. Johnson, Lockheed Martin senior vice president and chief technology officer. "The challenges we face as a global community are increasingly complex, and we need the best and brightest working together to develop global solutions." The university teams participating in the challenge include Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, IIT Chennai, Delhi Technological University, University of Petroleum and Energy Studies, and Birla Institute of Technological Studies Pilani - Goa Campus..