



DST-Lockheed Martin's India Innovation Growth Programme: Lockheed Martin Team with Students

DST-Lockheed Martin's India Innovation Growth Programme Declares Winners for 2015

The DST-Lockheed Martin India Innovation Growth Programme entered its ninth year with a record 1,300 applications for innovative ideas across industries ranging from agriculture and textiles to defence and healthcare. The programme aims to enhance the growth and development of India's innovation and entrepreneurial pursuits by launching early-stage Indian technologies into the global marketplace. More than 6,000 technology applications have been evaluated throughout the life of the programme.

"Through the India Innovation Growth Programme, we challenge innovators to bring forth ideas and innovations that will shape the future of industries across the country," said Lockheed Martin Chief Technology Officer Keoki Jackson. "This is a tremendous partnership between Government, academia and industry as well as a primary example of how we are supporting Make-in-India's goal to position the country as a hub for global manufacturing."

Making his keynote address, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Science & Technology & Earth Sciences, Government of India congratulated the young winners of the competition and stated that there was no dearth of scientists in India and there is innovation taking place all over the country. He added that the real achievement will happen when these innovations translate into something which benefits mankind by addressing and solving several problems which are also missions for the Government of India.

The programme's 'Mind-to-Market' strategy provides advanced training in technology commercialisation strategies, venture formation, venture finance, technology marketing, competitive technical strategies and presentation skills. This year, key tech-

nologies submitted through the programme included a futuristic eco-friendly safe rechargeable magnesium-ion battery, bone grafts designed via a biomimetic approach from natural materials, NetPlug: Give the power of internet to your products, Energy saving device for producing uniform charcoal heat through LPG, and X-ray visible polymers for non-invasive imaging applications.

The winning innovations of IIGP 2015 provide technologies that can facilitate the promising missions of the Government of India, viz., Swachh Bharat - Clean India, Green India, 'Make-in-India', Digital India, and the recently adopted Healthy India. The IIGP through its past and present Winners shall strive to strengthen these flagship Government initiatives by being a technology enabler. Since its launch in 2007, the programme has helped participants find business partners in India and abroad, resulting in more than 300 business engagement agreements being signed between 2007 and 2014. According to the most recent economic impact assessment conducted by Ernst & Young, the programme helped participants and their companies generate revenues exceeding R.1,500 crore (US\$ 236 million) during the period between 2007 and 2012, contributing significantly to the country's economic growth.

From the more than 1,300 applications, 50 innovators were invited to participate in a week-long advanced training session covering the basic principles of product commercialisation, readiness for market, business models, intellectual property rights and competitive positioning by faculty members from the Stanford Graduate School of Business. Following presentations on their innovations, 20 innovators received a cash award of R.1 lakh each and ten will be taken on an all-expenses paid trip to the Silicon Valley in the United States to deliver their pitches.

Lockheed Martin, FICCI and the University of Texas IC2 Institute launched the India Innovation Growth Programme in March 2007. It was joined by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India and the Indo-US S&T Forum in November 2008. The programme aims to accelerate innovative Indian technologies into markets in the United States and around the world. The India Innovation Growth Programme is the only programme of its kind because of its focus on teaching and using world-class commercialisation strategies. Since its introduction in India, the programme has received an overwhelming response from innovators, inventors, scientists and researchers working across diverse sectors throughout India.

- Compiled by Editorial Team