

Report | Lockheed Martin-DST IIGP

Young Minds at Work

India Innovation Growth Programme receives a record participation from innovators across the country



WINNING STORIES Union minister for science & technology and earth sciences, Harsh Vardhan awarding prizes to the winners of IIGP

DILIP KUMAR MEKALA | NEW DELHI

THE 'MAKE IN INDIA' DREAM CAN only be realised if the government is able to retain research talent. This was realised much before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream was enunciated when in March 2007, Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the US company Lockheed Martin along with few other partners, initiated the India Innovation Growth Programme (IIGP). The programme is now in its ninth year. According to Lockheed Martin, the programme has received a record participation from various institutions, small scale industries and others with nearly 1,300 applications in wide range of areas such as agriculture, textiles, defence and healthcare. Recently a programme was organised to felicitate the winners of the competition organised under the India Innovation Growth programme.

Union minister, ministry of science & technology and earth sciences, Harsh Vardhan, congratulated the young winners of the competition and stated that there was no dearth of scientists in India, and that innovation was 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 Govern-

ment of India.

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 market place. More than 6,000 technology applications have been evaluated throughout the life of the programme.

"Through IIGP, we challenge innovators to bring forth ideas and innovations that will shape the future industries across the country", said Keoki Jackson, Lockheed Martin chief technology officer. "This is a tremendous partnership between the 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."

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 technologies submitted through the programme include a futuristic eco-friendly safe rechargeable magnesium-ion battery, bone grafts designed via a biomimetic approach from natural materials, Net-Plug: 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.

Lockheed Martin, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the University of Texas IC2 Institute launched IIGP in March 2007. It was joined by 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.

Lockheed Martin has been involved in various other programmes to encourage research talent in India. On 24 November 2014, Lockheed Martin launched a C-130J Roll-on/Roll-off University design challenge to develop cargo aircraft modules for disaster relief operations. Teams from five leading institutes - IIT Delhi, IIT Chennai, Delhi Technical University (DTU), University of Petroleum and Energy Studies (UPES) and Birla Institute of Technological Studies (BITS) Pilani, Goa campus - presented their conceptual designs to Lockheed Martin officials in New Delhi.

Lockheed Martin plans to fund the 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 also plans to support each team with engineering, technical and business development expertise. Finally 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. ||