

# KERALA IT NEWS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF IT PARKS KERALA

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CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

## KERALA GOVT. SIGNS MoU WITH VSSC TO DEVELOP SPACE PARK



In a major boost to the Kerala Space Park project, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) has recently signed an MoU with the State Government to support its endeavours promoting Space Technology vertical in the State.

The agreement was signed by M Sivasanakar IAS, Secretary, Department of Electronics & IT and S Somanath, Director, VSSC in the presence of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. “With VSSC and the Kerala Government joining hands for the project, the State is set to make major strides in space technology sector. This partnership will create an ideal ambiance for advanced research and development in the field of space technology,” the Chief Minister said.

The agreement will facilitate VSSC to support the State’s ambitious project to set up the country’s first state-of-the-art Space Systems Park at Knowledge City in the State capital to attract

global startups in the space sector and make it a major manufacturing hub for space-related technology, research and development. “This agreement will enable to tap the full potential of Kerala in space research. The Space Park will also generate plenty of job opportunities,” Somanath said.

Technopark will transfer 20.01 acres of land on lease to the Kerala State Information Technology Infrastructure Ltd. (KSITIL) to develop Space Park at the Knowledge City within the Technocity. Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam Knowledge Centre and Space Museum, to be developed by VSSC as a befitting memorial to the former President and top space scientist, will be part of the overall infrastructure of the Space Park.

Tom Jose IAS, Chief Secretary; M C Dathan, Scientific Advisor to the Chief Minister; S Chithra IAS, Director, IT Mission; Dr. D Sam Dayala Dev, Director, ISRO Inertial Systems Unit;

Dr. V Narayanan, Director, LPSC; Dr. Santhosh Kurup, Special Officer, Space Park; Hrishikesh Nair, CEO, IT Parks Kerala and senior scientists from VSSC attended the ceremony.

Through the MoU, VSSC will support Kerala Space Park in technical and leadership responsibility and help promote the SMEs, startups and other partner entities in developing products and services for the Space Industry. Kerala Space Park will join hands with VSSC in organising international events and attract global space companies to Kerala.

Kerala Space Park has two sub verticals – Space Technology Application Development Ecosystem (STADE) and Nano Space Park to harness both upstream and downstream capabilities of Space Tech domain. STADE has already signed agreements with French Space Agency CNES and also Airbus, for promotion of Space and Aerospace Startups.

# CLEAN TECHNOLOGY BANDWAGON MOVES ON



– **M Sivasankar IAS**  
Secretary, Department  
of Electronics & IT

(Source: KSUM  
Techn-O-Monitor  
e-newsletter)

At a time when electric vehicles are drawing the attention of everyone, I feel much empowered to write about ‘clean technology’ as mine would be the first official vehicle under Kerala Government to make the switch to electric mobility. This comes close on the heels of two major initiatives that our Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has taken in the State. The first is the intent of the Government to roll-out one million e-vehicles by 2022. These include 3 000 buses, 100 ferries, 200,000 two-wheelers, 50,000 three-wheelers and 1000 goods carriers besides 8000 e-autos.

The second one is the inauguration of the State’s first electric vehicle charging station at Edapally in Kochi, by the Chief Minister. Power Grid Corporation of India has provided the basic facilities for the initiative. Those planning

a transition to electric vehicles have more reason to cheer as the Union Budget has announced an income tax deduction of Rs. 1,50,000 on interest paid on loans taken for the purchase of e-vehicles, without considering the class or cost of such vehicles. With much being done to stimulate the supply and demand of electric vehicles, the market is ripe for such vehicles.

To all young minds being groomed in the engineering and other technical educational institutions of Kerala, I would like to say that this is your opportunity to come out and make a difference. Why not come up with a portable and low-cost pump that can help e-vehicles check pollution? If you feel you have an idea and would like to discuss more, the strong network of Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM) is with you!

## UST GLOBAL TO HOST HACKATHON FOR COLLEGE, VARSITY STUDENTS

UST Global is launching the first edition of ‘d3code’, a hackathon for college and university students from across the country, ahead of its Annual Developer Conference, D3.

D3 – Dream, Develop and Disrupt – which will be held in December 2019 in Thiruvananthapuram, is UST Global’s developer conference in which the brightest minds in the company will meet, learn and develop their digital and coding skills.

d3code (pronounced as decode) is a nationwide initiative to provide students a platform with an aim to solve some of the pressing problems faced in daily lives by the people and to test their passion for innovation, problem-solving and programming.

Each team would comprise of four members, including the team leader.

Speaking about the event, Alexander Varghese, Chief Administrative Officer & Country Head - India, UST Global said, “D3 has already earned a name for itself as a premier company developer conference. This year, by adding the external hackathon named d3code, it is specially designed

to bring young minds to work with experts in the technology and innovation fields, while focusing on the bigger picture. We are very excited about the first edition of D3 – d3code 2019 and pleased to welcome the brightest students from colleges and universities across India.”

The d3code 2019 comes with an exciting opportunity for winning great prizes. Each member of the Top 20 Final teams, who attend the final 24-hour hackathon, will receive a con-

ditional offer (subject to terms and conditions) to join UST Global, India. The first prize winning team will be rewarded with a Hacker’s backpack consisting of MacBook Pro, External Hard Drive, Raspberry Pi 4 Desktop Kit, USB Flash Drive, High Speed Charging External Power Bank and a cash prize of Rs. 25,000 each. The members of the team placed second will be awarded a Microsoft Surface, Raspberry Pi 4 Desktop Kit, and Rs. 10,000 each, while the members from the team placed third will be taking home a Samsung Note 9, Raspberry Pi 4 Desktop Kit, and Rs. 5000 each.



## SUNTEC LAUNCHES OPERATIONS IN AUSTRALIA

SunTec Business Solutions has launched its operations in Melbourne, increasing its focus on the Australia and New Zealand markets. This is a significant move especially after SunTec’s recent launch of Xelerate® Digital Core – an extremely low risk approach for banks to accelerate their digital transformation journey, without having to replace their functionally stable legacy core systems.



SunTec’s expansion comes at a time when many large banks in Australia and New Zealand are embracing customer-centric transformation, to stay ahead of the competition. In addition, the recent regulatory requirements to improve standards and transparency, make it imperative for banks to act fast.

K Nanda Kumar, CEO, SunTec, said, “Australia and New Zealand bear strategic significance in our growth plans. Setting up operations in Australia is a logical step as it allows us to be close to our customers, demonstrating our commitment to the region”.



## OFFICE OF INNOVATURE SOFTWARE LABS INAUGURATED ON INFOPARK PHASE 2



**P**T Thomas MLA inaugurated the new office space of Innovature Software Labs at Trans Asia Cyber Park on Infopark Kochi Phase 2 campus at a function held recently. Hrishikesh Nair, CEO, IT Parks Kerala; Gijo Sivan and Ravindranath Angeveetil, Directors, Innovature Software Labs; Tiby Kuruvila, Founder & CEO, Pinmicro and Jayaraj T, CTO, Pinmicro were also present on the occasion. A global business consulting and technology services company focusing on high-quality IT solutions, Innovature Software Labs provides custom software development and consulting services across a diverse spectrum of technology verticals such as web, enterprise, convergence and mobile applications. Its value-added services also span offshore software development services, business process consulting and IT resourcing & staffing. Founded in 2005, it currently has a base of more than 100 customers worldwide.

## US MAJOR ACQUIRES INFOPARK-BASED TECH INNOVATIONS TECHNOLOGIES



**T**he Infopark-based Tech Innovations Technologies (ti Technologies) has been acquired by the US head-quartered RCG Global Services – a provider of digital solutions across mobile, web, cloud and legacy platforms. RCG is one of the top players in the US with clientele across Fortune 500 companies. ti technologies set up in 2012 is an end-to-end services provider serving clients in the UK and the US. With this acquisition, RCG Global will expand its footprints in India and strengthen delivery capabilities to help clients achieve measurable business outcomes in customer engagement, operation optimisation, and workforce enablement. The company will now be called RCG – India. Rob Simplot, CEO & President, RCG Global Services; Deepu Zacharia, Founder & CEO, ti Technologies and Hrishikesh Nair, CEO, IT Parks Kerala were among the dignitaries present on the occasion.

## CODSEC-2019 HELD

**C**yberdome at Technopark has organised CODSEC-2019, a programme aimed at identifying and showcasing innovative ideas and projects worked upon by the public, with the intent to ensure that future policing incorporates more technological measures. Lokanath Behera IPS, State Police Chief, inaugurated the event in which Manoj Abraham IPS, ADGP HQ & Nodal Officer Cyberdome and Hrishikesh Nair, CEO, IT Parks Kerala were among the host of dignitaries who took part.



## AXEL TECHNOLOGIES OPENS OFFICE AT CYBERPARK KOZHIKODE



**A**xel Technologies, a software development service provider offering smart, intelligent and value-added services to enterprises, has set up a new office at Sahya IT building of Cyberpark Kozhikode. T P Ramakrishnan, State Minister for Labour and Excise, inaugurated the facility recently in the presence of Nireesh C, General Manager, Cyberpark Kozhikode; Abdul Gafoor, Secretary, Calicut Forum for Infor-

mation Technology (CAFIT); Afsal Nishad, Founder & CEO, Axel Technologies and Jashna Afsal, Director, Axel Technologies. One of the best offshore software development teams in India, Axel provides services such as augmented reality (AR)-based app development, programming in machine learning, android and iOS app development, ecommerce solutions, cloud infrastructure services, custom software development and the like.

# Kerala IT Overview



## TECHNOPARK - THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

- India's largest, fastest growing IT Park
- 760 acres with 9.33 million sq.ft. of IT built-up space
- 'One of the world's greenest IT Parks' - Rediff.com
- Technopark Phase 3 - India's largest LEED Gold-rated building
- Over 390 companies with 53,000 IT professionals
- Technocity Phase 4 - an upcoming IT integrated township
- Rural IT Park in Kollam - for startups



## TECHNOCITY - THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

- 300 acres of IT integrated township
- Knowledge City, 100 acres for knowledge-based township
- 2 lakh sq. ft. IT building coming up
- Mix of SEZ / DTZ area • 7 km from Technopark campus
- Upcoming cost-effective IT space for startups & SMEs



## INFOPARK - KOCHI

- 323 acres of IT development
- 6 million sq.ft. of IT built-up space
- Mix of SEZ & DTZ areas • Cost-effective IT space
- Rural IT parks @ Cherthala & Koratty for startups



## CYBERPARK - KOZHIKODE

- Emerging IT hub for Malabar region
- 45-acre campus with a mix of SEZ & DTZ
- Cost-effective IT space for startups, SMEs & MNCs
- Ready-to-occupy 3 lakh sq. ft. IT SEZ building
- Smart business centres & warm shell options
- Long-term land lease option



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