



PRESS RELEASE

IIT Mandi Catalyst gears up for 'Startup Exploration Programme 2019'

On successful completion of the exploration program, Catalyst will provide a one-year Incubation support which includes upto Rs 15 Lakh seed funding

MANDI, 31st January 2019: IIT Mandi Catalyst, the first technology business incubator of Himachal Pradesh, at Indian Institute of Technology Mandi, is all set to launch its first startup batch of the year 2019 from 7th February 2019. The program will help the startups to convert their ideas into viable businesses.

The first phase of the Incubation program will run for three months during which startups will get funding support of upto Rs 1.5 Lakh, in addition to mentoring, networking and training.

A total of twelve startups from different sectors such as Augmented Reality, Artificial Intelligence, IoT, Waste Management, Agrotech, Renewable Energy and Online services have been shortlisted for the program. Five out of these 12 teams are from Himachal. The teams will relocate and work from co-working space of Catalyst in Mandav Complex in Mandi town where they will be provided hostel facility and office space for next three months

Speaking about this year's participation in the program, Dr. Puran Singh, Faculty-in-charge, IIT Mandi Catalyst, said, "This is the first of the three batches of startups that we intend to run during 2019. This batch has 100% increase in the number of shortlisted teams compared to the previous two batches."

On completion of the programme, Catalyst will provide one-year Incubation programme which includes upto Rs 15 Lakh seed funding. Startups are expected to utilise the money to further improve their product. From the last 'Exploration Program', held in July 2018, one out of the six teams called Arnetta Technologies has made its way to the one-year Incubation programme and raised seed fund of Rs 15 Lakh from Catalyst.

It is notable that Himachal Pradesh Centre for Entrepreneurship Development provides financial support to startups admitted to support programs at Catalyst. There is a provision for Rs 25,000 per month sustenance allowance and Rs 10 Lakh for marketing and commercialization for startups.



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About IIT Mandi Catalyst

Launched in 2016, IIT Mandi Catalyst is the first Technology Business Incubator (TBI) in the state of Himachal Pradesh. Supported by Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, Catalyst aims to incubate technology-based start-ups focused on economic and/or social impacts. As the name implies, it serves as a 'catalyst' to nurture and guide entrepreneurial initiatives with social and/or commercial objectives.

About IIT Mandi (<http://www.iitmandi.ac.in/>)

Nestled in Sivalik Range of the Himalayas, IIT Mandi is fast emerging as a leader in science and technology education, knowledge creation and innovation, in an India marching towards a just, inclusive and sustainable society. Since the first batch of students took place in July 2009, IIT Mandi has grown to host 1,276 students including 274 PhD, 46 MS and 17 I-Ph.D. research scholars, 104 Faculty, 150 staff, and attracted funding to the tune of over Rs.70 crore for Research Projects. A growing body of alumni, nearly 850 in number, will become the champions of this institute as they assume leadership positions in industry, academia and administration.

From 1,280 students in 2018, the Institute aims to grow to 5,000 B.Tech, M.Tech/M.Sc. and M.S./Ph.D. by 2029. Currently, the campus has completed about 80,000 sq.m. of construction. Another 1,50,000 sq.m. is currently under construction. IIT Mandi has a fully residential campus with all students and 95 percent of the faculty residing within it.

Since 2010, IIT Mandi's faculty has bagged nearly 180 projects worth more than Rs. 85 Crore. IIT Mandi, in just 9 years of its existence, has been able to develop several labs and facilities on its campus here at Kamand, creating an extraordinary research ambiance. The Advanced Materials Research Centre (AMRC), created with an investment of about Rs. 50 crore, houses advanced instruments for the characterization of materials with scope for drug delivery, electrical, electronics and biological applications. Since its inception in 2013, the AMRC has contributed to more than 200 research publications.

The institute has an Interdisciplinary Academic Culture which is Design-oriented. The B.Tech. curriculum focuses on Real-World team projects from the Year One to Four. A strong humanities component as well makes the IIT Mandi curriculum even more relevant to the society at large. There are many active MoUs with TU9 in Germany since May 2011.

Launched in 2016, IIT Mandi's very own technology-business incubator Catalyst is the first Technology Business Incubator (TBI) in Himachal Pradesh. It aims to incubate technology-based startups focused on economic and/or social impacts. EWOK (Enabling Women of Kamand Valley) is another very innovative program being run by IIT Mandi which focuses on Skills training village-scale businesses by village women using Internet and pervasive mobile network and Serving local and global customers.

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