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MIT incubates the spirit of innovation

TNN Jan 10, 2011, 10.21pm IST



MANIPAL: Within hardly a year its establishment, the Manipal University Technology Business Incubator (MUTBI) has a number of innovations to boast of. Patent applications have been filed for about 12 of its innovations, mainly by MUTBI students and faculty.

MUTBI is an initiative of the Manipal University, supported by the department of science and technology, government of India, in association with the Manipal Institute of Technology. MUTBI, established with a view to create an eco-system that will foster innovation and knowledge-based entrepreneurship amongst the MIT Manipal community, became operational in March, 2010. The main thrust areas of this non-profit organisation are information technology, healthcare, renewable energy and nanotechnology.

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The incubator provides the required software, hardware, networking, office space and other infrastructure to the promoters or the company to carry out innovations. It also provides them access to the laboratories of MIT and arrange meetings between the promoters and venture capitalists.

Highlighting the achievements of the Incubator, M M Manohar Pai, associate director of MUTBI told TOI that patent applications have been filed for 12 innovations so far in the field of technology and healthcare, both in **India** and the US. The products seeking patents include a low cost water generator, low cost telescope, dietitian software, LED based low cost home lighting system for rural areas, LCD compliant knowledge-based patient information system, sensor network- based agriculture applications, decision support system for oncology and low cost dental implants.

MUTBI is housed at the Innovation Centre of MIT, a state-of-art building. It is funded to the tune of Rs 5 crore mainly by the National Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Board. MUTBI supports entrepreneurship and incubates the units till they become full fledged. Presently six of such units are functioning, ranging from technology development to technology solutions and services. More such units are expected to join them in due course, said Pai. MUTBI is also a boon to the research students and faculty of MIT, enabling them to do research in inter-disciplinary subjects.

"With MUTBI, we have made a paradigm shift from teaching to core research and practical implementation of theoretical aspects. Priority is given to local companies for the incubation process, as a part of meeting social obligation," Pai said.

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