

For immediate release**PRESS RELEASE**

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IIM-A, CIIE and Tata Communications join forces to nurture entrepreneurship and the spirit of innovation

'iAccelerator' empowers start-ups by offering infrastructure, investment support and mentorship

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[Tata Communications](#), a leading provider of a New World of Communications, today announces its association with [iAccelerator](#) for the second consecutive year. A development programme for entrepreneurs and start-ups, iAccelerator is the flagship programme of the Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE) at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. Since its inception in 2009, the programme has supported 27 successful start-ups in the Internet and mobile space. Tata Communications continues to pledge its support to the programme by providing funding, mentorship and infrastructure, as part of its on-going initiative to nurture excellence and innovation in India.

This year, the participating eight start-ups will go through a three-month residential program, where experts from Tata Communications and the industry will mentor them on business, infrastructure and investment. Beyond mentorship, Tata Communications will also provide International lease line and video conferencing tools to help the start-ups achieve their business goals for the programme.

Srinivasa Addepalli, Chief Strategy Officer, Tata Communications, says, "We're very keen to help transform great ideas into great businesses and often in such an endeavour, mentorship is the key element. Tata Communications is committed to cultivating a spirit of excellence and innovation and creating a culture of investment that impacts the country's competitiveness, globally. These start-ups are addressing the need of the hour based on the current trends we're seeing. The investment and mentorship the start-ups receive through this programme will help these innovative new companies expand their scope of work, to build business skills and acquire market opportunities in the country. It's a privilege for us to be a part of this programme."

The start-ups have been provided with work spaces, IT infrastructure, seed capital and mentorship from a team of industry experts. The iAccelerator programme has five angel investment partners including the CIIE. The start-ups are expected to showcase their final prototype / product to the angel investors on Demo Day. They can expect an investment of up to INR 10 lakhs for their project. Last year, they were given the chance to showcase their products to 36 investors.

Pranay Gupta, Joint CEO, Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE) says, "Supporting our finalists with the best infrastructure and expertise is imperative for the programme. This is the second year that Tata Communications has supported the iAccelerator programme and as one of the world's leading providers of enterprise managed services, we are confident that our finalists will have access to world class connectivity, technology and invaluable mentorship to strengthen their projects. This is not just about the investment but also the ability to collaborate with one of the technology leaders in the industry."

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iAccelerator is a flagship incubator programme at CIIE, designed to equip technology entrepreneurs in Internet & Mobile domain to establish well run, technically excellent and profitable companies in India. Every year, a group of tech start-ups is selected through an application process and put through a 3-month residential accelerator programme. The finalist start-ups each receive seed capital, mentoring from a team of industry experts and opportunity to showcase their prototype/product in front of early stage investors. iAccelerator is proud to have committed partners across the country in Hyderabad, Delhi, Bangalore and Mumbai. The partners play an instrumental role in sponsoring the programme, selecting start-ups to co-invest in and providing invaluable mentorship, and other in-kind infrastructure and product support to the start-ups.

Some of the start-ups incubated through the iAccelerator programme in the past include Innoz, Beevolve, Hashcube, iBloom, Audech and Redanyway among others. For more details about the iAccelerator programme, please refer to www.iaccelerator.org

About CIIE, IIMA

Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE) was setup at the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA) with support from Gujarat Government and Department of Science and Technology (Government of India) to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in India. Experience and expertise at IIMA in the areas of management, innovation, technology networks along with entrepreneurship provide the necessary impetus and intellectual basis for this initiative.

CIIE comprises of faculty, alumni and students of IIMA, mentors and service providers from the industry who span a variety of functional areas, sectoral domains and geographies and are passionately committed to helping disruptive innovations and aspiring entrepreneurs succeed commercially. CIIE enables most of what may be required by entrepreneurs through seed-funding, incubation, mentoring, training, knowledge dissemination and best practice research.

CIIE is situated in IIM Ahmedabad and carries out its incubation activities through a Section-25 company set-up to promote entrepreneurship in India. For details on CIIE's initiatives towards fostering entrepreneurship, please refer to www.ciiindia.org.
