

Highest number of patents from IIT-M

The Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M) has won a national award in intellectual property for an educational institution securing highest number of patents, with 78 patents to its credit, in the last five years.

The Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) in collaboration with the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) & Indian Intellectual Property Office of the Government of India is honouring outstanding achievements in various fields for development of intellectual property (IP) with awards. IIT-M has won the award for an educational institution/university with the highest number of patents.

"Many industries and external agencies both in public and private sectors work together with the institute and faculty towards development of new products, technologies



On behalf on IIT-Madras, Prof. Job Kurian, Dean, Industrial Consultancy and Sponsored Research, receives the IP award from Anand Sharma, Minister for Commerce and Industry, in New Delhi.

and processes," said Job Kurian, Dean, Industrial Consultancy and Sponsored Research (IC&SR). In fact, IC&SR was started in 1973 at the institute resulting in better interaction and a long standing relationship with industries.

IIT-M earned Rs. 7 lakh as revenue through consultancy and projects in 1973 and the revenue has increased to Rs. 163 crore per annum now. While consultancy accounted for Rs. 40 crore, the research projects amounted to Rs. 120 crore. Fac-

ulty propose several projects to the industries most of which are approved paving the way for faculty to set up facilities, he said. IIT-M was a pioneer in industry-institute interaction, a widespread trend all over the world which has started gathering momentum in the country, he added. The institute also has definite policy guidelines with regard to the intellectual property and how it is shared with the collaborators. "There is a hassle-free, transparent and easy procedure internally to facilitate the patenting process and IC&SR enables these activities," Mr. Kurian said.

The IIT-M Research Park, the first of its kind in the country, is expected to enhance the industry-institute interaction creating a favourable ambience. The companies setting up R&D facilities in the park are expected to interact with faculty and students of institute and earn credits

through the engagement.

IIT-M has been in the forefront of innovative research since its inception focussing and improving on applied and collaborative research in recent years.

"With over 200 new faculty joining the institute in the past five years constituting to almost half of the faculty strength, and with greater awareness of IP among the faculty, the number of patents will grow multifold in the years to come," said Mr. Kurian, who received the award on behalf of the institute from Anand Sharma, Minister for Commerce and Industry, at a function to celebrate the World Intellectual Property Day in New Delhi.

Incidentally, an alumnus of IIT-M, Lalit Mahajan won the award for an individual for securing highest number of patents in the last five years.

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