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IC2 Institute,
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DST and Lockheed Martin reward Indian innovators to promote innovation culture in India

New Delhi, April 28, 2011: DST and Lockheed Martin awarded winners of the India Innovation Growth Programme (IIGP) 2011 with medals, certificates, and cash awards of Rs. 1 lakh each. The innovators were selected for their unique technology ideas that can be converted to commercial ventures in diverse fields such as environment, power, telecommunications, etc. The awards were presented by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, Minister of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, Government of India.

The programme was launched in 2007 and has been successfully running for the past four years. The programme, which helps entrepreneurs take their innovative ideas to market, received 1,000 applications this year, showing a 10-fold increase from the 100 applications that were received in 2007. To encourage the innovators, the programme partners have increased the number of awards this year. To attract high-caliber applicants, the programme conducted a series of road shows, workshops, and technology expositions in cities throughout India, reaching over 2,000 innovators and entrepreneurs. Participants in the 2011 programme underscored their faith in the value of the programme by pledging to bring their valuations to \$100 million over the next three years.

The applications for the programme represent a myriad of sectors, ranging from information and communication technologies and healthcare to agriculture and environmental technology. There was also a quantum jump in the quality of technologies participating in the programme.

The DST-Lockheed Martin India Innovation Growth Programme, which supports the commercialization of selected innovative technologies, has resulted in significant business development for Indian start-ups, entrepreneurs, and subject matter experts. Based on the feedback received from IIGP technology participants who were selected from 2007-2009, went on to generate cumulative revenue of more than Rs. 350 crores in 2010. In 2011, it is expected that the revenue generated in this manner will exceed Rs. 490 crore.

Welcoming the guests and participants at the event, **Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Director General, FICCI** said, "the India Innovation Growth Programme is a unique three way partnership between the government, industry and academia. It creates an ecosystem for facilitating the birth of new ideas, nurturing them and converting these ideas into high value products and services." He added that FICCI is committed to expand the outreach of the

programme to engage more innovators even in smaller cities and ensure that many more innovations are commercially successful.” He mentioned that FICCI has set up a Centre for Technology Commercialization to provide an organized structure to connect the scientific and business fraternities and create a win-win situation by way of knowledge and wealth sharing.

While speaking on the occasion, **Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, Minister of Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, Government of India** said, “For fostering innovations in a large and innovative country like India, there is a distinct role of the private sector, the government and the academia. Programmes like India Innovation Growth Programme need to be expanded in scope, numbers and taken to all parts of the country”.

Sharing his view, **Dr. T. Ramasami, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India** said “The innovative ideas are not limited to cities and towns and it is encouraging to see most of cost effective and inclusive innovations come from the rural and less developed areas. A conscious effort to include innovations that benefit larger section of the society and are cost effective should be made.”

Lockheed Martin Senior Vice President and Chief Technology Officer Dr. Ray O Johnson, stated that, “Once again, I am inspired by the ingenuity and entrepreneurial vigor of the innovators at this competition. Programs like this one are key to generating new ideas that will become innovative and affordable solutions to the complex global challenges of the future”.

Addressing the gathering, **Mr. H.K. Mittal, Secretary – Technology Development Board and Advisor & Head, National Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board (NSTEDB), Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India**, said “IIGP has evolved into a major innovation scouting, supporting and scaling programme. The programme has grown more than ten times in terms of numbers of innovators and the quality of innovations has also improved immensely”.

Dr. Arabinda Mitra, Executive Director, Indo-US S&T Forum, stated that, “This programme is designed to promote and nurture the culture of innovation and enterprise which constitutes the key elements for sustaining knowledge economy in the 21st century.”

Mr. Sid Burback, Director, Global Commercialization Group (GCG), UT-Austin – IC² Institute stated “The India Innovation Growth Program is entering its fifth year and we at the Global Commercialization Group (GCG) are thrilled with the increasing results over the years. The program has benefitted more than 2,700 Indian scientists, engineers, private inventors and entrepreneurs across virtually every technology sector. Just this year, we had over 900 applications submitted for assessment! We are pleased to be an integral part of bringing these innovative technologies into the global marketplace.”