

T-BIC: The winner that creates winners....

SooryaKiran: a student-team harnessing the sunrays of technology in support of the life sciences



Claming their place in the sun: Team SooryaKiran in the Karyavattom Campus

The life-giving and life-supporting rays of the sun gently penetrate through the thick foliage of greenery enveloping the Kerala University Campus at Karyavattom near Trivandrum, adjoining Technopark Campus, which is already hailed as the World's Greenest Electronics Technopolis. Green is what depicts life and health, and hence no wonder that a student-led information technology revolution based on Bioinformatics (which is all about Technology in the service of the life sciences) has taken shape in the university campus and is growing fast with the active support of Technopark's TBI initiatives.

SooryaKiran Bioinformatics (P) Ltd., the nascent bioinformatics company, was thus born. Team SooryaKiran comprises 12 young, dynamic student entrepreneurs from the

Centre for Bioinformatics, Dept of Zoology, University of Kerala. It is a heterogeneous group consisting of postgraduates from both Life Science and Computer Science streams giving a multi subject resource pool to the effort. They are Srijith V. M., Betsy Sheena Cherian, Anoop P. K., Sherin K., Vipin Thomas, GopaKumar G, Lijo Anto, Boniface P. J., Juby Mathew, Manju Susan Thomas, Reshmi G and Deepa Vijayan.

"During a class presentation in 2005 at the Centre for Bioinformatics (in a building of the former Animal House of the Dept of Zoology, University of Kerala!), Reshmi G initially came up with her dream of starting a Biotech/Bioinformatics Company", reminisces G. Gopakumar, one of the founding directors. "The presentation went as usual. It was a regular practice on those days that Dr. Achuthsankar S. Nair, Hon. Director, Centre for Bioinformatics accompanied his M. Phil Bioinformatics scholars to the cafeteria for short tea breaks. One day during their chatting at cafeteria the idea of starting the first Bioinformatics company in Kerala got shaped up."

Dr. Achuthsankar discussed this novel idea with Dr. Oommen V. Oommen, Prof & Head, Dept of Zoology, who took up the matter with the Vice Chancellor and other authorities of the University.

The University of Kerala offered basic infrastructure to these 12 young scholars by setting up an Industrial Incubation Centre (IIC) which is the

first of its kind in Kerala. Dr. Oommen was given the charge of CEO, IIC. On March 15, 2006, in a small room of the old animal house, Dr. Oommen informally lighted up the operations of SooryaKiran and those rays are still there with even more brightness. On June 15, 2006, the company got registration from ROC, Cochin under the name SooryaKiran Bioinformatics (P) Ltd (www.sooryakiran.com) with two Directors, Anoop P. K and Gopa Kumar G. Srijith V.M was recently



selected as the CEO and Sherin K was added to the Board of Directors. Now, finding that the present environment is not enough for their growth plan, they decided to shift to Technopark's TBI and after a series of mentoring and evaluation, managed to get a place in T-TBI. Mr. R.C. Dutt and Mr. K.C.C. Nair have shown them the right direction and as a result SooryaKiran has opted for T-TBI and is making progress.



TePP



Ministry of Science and Technology
Technopreneur Promotion Programme (TePP)

Call for Proposals

Technopark is the Outreach Centre for the Technopreneurship Promotion Programmes (TePP) of DSIR, Govt. of India. We invite proposals from innovators and entrepreneurs for financial support ranging from Rs. 75,000 to Rs. 45 lakh, depending upon the Project.

Technopark will evaluate the proposals, and the innovative projects from among them will be forwarded to DSIR for final assessment and funding.

PROGRAMME	ELIGIBILITY
TePP Phase I:	
1. Technopreneurship Support (TS)	Any individual innovator
2. TePP Project Fund (TPF)	Any individual innovator
TePP Phase II:	
1. Supplementary TePP Fund (STF)	Successful TePP innovators of TePP Phase-I
2. Seamless scale-up support (S3T)	Successful TePP innovators of TePP Phase-I
General Activities:	
1. Innovation funding camps	Organizations working in the area of innovation and entrepreneurship promotion
2. Documentaries/audio-visuals on TePP successful innovations	Professionals empanelled with DAVP with experience in making TV documentary/ Serial/ Digital Content