

ANNEX A

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FACTSHEET

IDA Labs

As Singapore moves towards becoming a Smart Nation, IDA is placing greater emphasis on encouraging a culture of creating and building. The culture will encourage Singaporeans and Singapore-based technology companies to experiment, collaborate and build new and innovative products and solutions that would address real world challenges globally as well as for Singapore.

About the IDA Labs

IDA will be allocating up to S\$10 million for the development and execution of the IDA Labs and its suite of programmes and activities. The IDA Labs provide physical lab spaces for individuals, companies and government agencies to collaborate. It enables them to work on areas such as generating new ideas, developing new technologies and testing out proof of concepts. There will be three focus areas for the IDA Labs, namely:

Focus 1: Building Singapore-based Tech Companies and Singapore Tech Talent

Objective: The goal is to support talented individuals and companies to generate innovative IP from ideation to productisation, building robust products and solutions through the lab resources, and mentor and user networks provided by IDA Labs. Working in conjunction with complementary programmes such as Accreditation and Accelerator, technology companies would also gain viable business opportunities locally and beyond.

Users: Promising and innovative Singapore-based technology companies and start-ups with high growth potential

Activities:

- Partnership with companies and startups through the provision of lab resources such as equipment, test environment, mentor and user networks to support them in product development from ideation to early stage product-market fit.
- Hub for entrepreneurs, tech companies, user organisations and research institutions to come together and develop viable products.
- Meeting point for technology and design experts to collaborate and build new products which meet both functional and consumer needs.

- A series of complementary programmes that utilise IDA Labs facilities and networks are also being developed to support the building of technology companies.

These include:

- IDA Labs-Red Hat Joint Programme – IDA Labs users will have access to advice from Red Hat experts, and also from the open source community at large. IDA Labs and RedHat will also be organising an international challenge that seeks to discover innovative technology projects that fuse form and function. They will continue to work with grassroots organisations to reach out to the technology community as well as to continue entice and grow this technology pool.
- IDA Labs-Intel Partnership – Intel will be providing resources such as future Quark based platforms and technical expertise such as product development training to IDA Labs users. Intel will also be rendering its global platform as a means for local ICT companies to bring their ready products to overseas markets.
- IDA Labs-IES Partnership – IDA Labs has inked a two-year collaboration with the Institution of Engineers Singapore (IES) to strengthen the capabilities of the local engineering and technopreneur community. The collaboration will bring together engineers (rookie and experienced) from various disciplines to use tech to build innovative hardware and software products that solve real-world problem statements. Together with IDA's partners, these innovative solutions will be groomed from ideation and prototype to a commercially viable product, through a series of workshops, events and hackathons.
- HaxAsia Hardware Acceleration Programme – IDA Labs has played host to 8 start-ups in the first run of their 180-day programme. As part of the programme, hardware start-ups spend 2 months in Singapore for prototype refinement and preparation for crowdfunding, followed by 2 months in Silicon Valley for fundraising, and another 2 months in China speaking with contract manufacturers.
- Tech User Group Meet-ups and Networking – IDA Labs plays host to various tech user groups that bring together the software community. Through regular meet-ups, developers get together to learn the latest tech trends and build capabilities. Hackathons are also held to bring out innovative solutions on these platforms. IDA Labs plays host to Agile Singapore, Rails girls, Ruby, and the Drupal user group.

Focus 2 – Fostering a Culture of Creating and Building

Objective: The aim is to ignite the young's passion for technology, particularly in experimenting with and building technology.

Users: Students, young IT professionals

Activities:

- Partnership with schools and institutes of higher learning to form a network of shared resources and jointly developed programmes that will encourage tinkering and experimentation with technology.
- Support for projects based on a wide range of tools and materials that connect to students' interests in and out of school.
- Curate the best of prototype projects and provide access for students and companies to inspire and fine tune ideas.
- A series of complementary programmes that leverage IDA Labs facilities and networks are also being developed to foster a culture of creating and building.

These include:

- Learn@Labs – Through workshops, talks and practical hands-on development on technologies, IDA Labs narrows the gaps for students to access to latest technologies. IDA Labs, supported by MOE, held a Learn@Labs Day from 27 to 29 May 2014. Students from various secondary schools offering the enrichment programme and 'O' level computer studies, as well as infocomm clubs members, will have the opportunity to learn about and tinker with various technologies such as Arduino, Robotics and 3D Printing.
- Challenge@Labs – Technology competitions to reinforce students' skill sets in science and technologies, IDA Labs provide this platform for innovation. In July, an open innovation competition on Red Hat and open source technologies targeted at students from the region such as Singapore, South Korea, China and Malaysia to ideate around the theme "Smart Living, Smart Homes". Students will have to go through three stages of evaluation; Red Hat certification workshop; two months of product development; and final presentation day to team of professional judges at the IDA Labs@NDC. An overall APAC winner will be crowned in Singapore

- Project@Labs - IDA Labs provide the platform for the school community to build and test their ideas eventually translate them into actual products and solutions. Through a partnership with the Institute of Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the Singapore Management University (SMU), the collaboration also seeks to facilitate the commercialisation of innovations either through co-development, or by adopting solutions to be used in Government projects

Focus 3 – Strengthening Internal Capabilities

Objective: The aim is to strengthen technology capabilities of IDA as well as support innovative technology deployment within government agencies.

Users: Government agencies and Singapore-based technology companies and startups.

Activities:

- Provision of technical workshops and seminars for officers from IDA and other partner government agencies. It will provide public officers with hands-on access to technology and allow them to experiment with new technologies in a collaborative work environment.
- Support government agencies with access to innovative technologies for early adoption to address problem statements.
- Provision of a secure testing environment for products from Singapore-based technology companies and startups. The environment will test these products for feasibility of use within a government environment, as well as showcase them to potential government users. Different parties within the ecosystem can also test the technology solutions for inter-operability.

To provide a seamless experience to IDA Labs users and programme participants, IDA Labs works closely with complementary IDA programmes such as the Accreditation@IDA and Accelerator.

IDA Labs Locations

IDA Labs is located at the IDA HQ and the National Design Centre (NDC). A third lab is slated to open at one of the National Library Board's libraries.

IDA Labs@HQ – The 300 sqm space is situated within the IDA office at Mapletree Business City. This facility is primarily where Singapore-based tech companies will

collaborate with IDA and government agencies on projects. Their products can also be “plugged in” to be experimented and tested for feasibility of use within a government context, and for demonstration to potential users. IDA Labs@HQ will also provide public officers with hands-on access to technology and experiment with new technologies in collaboration with the industry.

IDA Labs@NDC – The 400 sqm space is situated within the National Design Centre at Middle Road. This two-storey facility is set up in collaboration with DesignSingapore Council. It will target technology and media professionals as well as designers, and serve as a meeting point for these experts to collaborate on new products and services such as sensors, games, and data visualisation. The lab will also be primarily used for programmes targeted at students.

For media clarification, please contact:

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