

Annex B

FACTSHEET IDA Labs

As Singapore moves towards becoming a Smart Nation, IDA is placing greater emphasis on encouraging a culture of creating and building. With such emphasis, IDA hopes to encourage individuals, Singapore-based technology companies as well as government agencies to experiment, collaborate and build new and innovative products and solutions that will address real world challenges both locally and globally.

About the IDA Labs

As part of the Smart Nation initiative, IDA Labs was set up in March 2014 to provide physical lab spaces for individuals, companies and government agencies to collaborate and innovate. It enables them to generate new ideas, prototype concepts and develop new technologies. We hope to achieve the following three objectives through programmes and activities held at IDA Labs:

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

Objective: The aim is to support talented individuals and companies to generate new and innovative ideas, thus bringing these ideas to viable prototypes. Through resources provided by IDA Labs, companies and individuals will have access to tools and equipment, to test out new ideas and build proof-of-concepts. On top of that, through IDA Labs' network, individuals and companies will be able to get access to mentors and potential users to gain valuable advices and market validation.

Users: Promising and innovative Singapore-based technology companies, hardware start-ups. IDA Labs also reaches out to the larger tech community through hosting meet-ups and events that foster knowledge sharing.

Activities:

- IDA Labs hopes to provide a platform where technologists can hone their skill through workshops and training at the labs. As such, IDA Labs worked with tech companies (e.g. Intel, IBM, Google, NEC, Red Hat, Toshiba, Nuvoton) and other organisations (e.g. Institution of Engineers Singapore, National Design Council, etc) to provide mentoring, training and support for start-ups and the tech community. These included: technical mentorship and workshops on platforms which start-ups can use while building their prototypes. IDA Labs has also played host to various tech meet-ups and events that bring together tech communities of different disciplines to come together to share their views and

experiences. Since its launch, IDA Labs has hosted meet-up groups like Agile Singapore, Google Developers meet-up, Hadoop Big Data Meet-up, Arduino Day, Singapore Makers Meet-up, Raspberry Pi Meet-up, Rails girls, Ruby, and the Drupal user group. As of June 2015, IDA Labs has hosted over 250 tech workshops/meet-ups/events attracting over 9,000 participants.

- As part of IDA Labs' efforts in building innovative tech companies, IDA Labs has partnered hardware accelerator, HaxAsia, to host eight consumer hardware start-ups in May 2014, over a two-month period. These startups included TouchPico, SmartMio and CreoPop. IDA Labs is currently hosting other start-ups at our facility at the National Design Centre. To help these start-ups grow, IDA Labs has also provided support in other areas, such as introductions to prototyping facilities and testing and compliance organisations, and linking them to funding sources in Singapore.
- IDA Labs also hopes to be a meeting point for technology and design experts to collaborate and build new products which meet both functional and consumer needs. As part of such efforts, IDA Labs, together with Design Singapore, has collaborated and worked on the Design and Tech Innovation programme where technologists and designers worked together to develop concepts of products and services for health and wellness of the elderly in Singapore. We have seen more than 70 participants benefiting from the research, design thinking processes and cross disciplinary interactions of the workshop.

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 and curate the best of prototype projects and provide access for students and companies to inspire and fine tune ideas.

- Enhance special needs children and under privileged kids on their technology capabilities to cultivate their interest in programming and technology development.
- 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:

- Tech Workshops – Through workshops, talks and practical hands-on development on technologies, IDA Labs narrows the gaps for students to access latest technologies like Arduino, Robotics, 3D Printing. In 2015, IDA Labs will also empower students with strong capabilities in technologies to be a leader in labs. They will assist workshop providers or take leadership and train a group of younger students.
- Tech Challenges – Technology competitions to reinforce students' skill sets in science and technologies, IDA Labs provide this platform for innovation. IDA Labs will be introducing a series of robotics-based challenge in 2015 to create interest in technology as well as to train the students in integrating programming software to hardware development.
- Projects - IDA Labs provides the platform for the school community to build and test their ideas to eventually translate them into actual products and solutions. For example, through a partnership with Institute of Technical Education, the collaboration seeks to facilitate the market validation 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 in areas such as 3D printing, drones, microcontrollers, wearables and other hardware. It will provide public officers with hands-on access to technology and allow them to experiment with new technologies in a collaborative work environment.

- Collaborate with government agencies to promote early adoption of innovative solutions that address problem statements. This is done either through facilitating access to technology providers or special collaborative projects with industry mentors and IHLs.
- Provision of a secure sandbox for in-house experimentation by officers from IDA and other partner government agencies. The prototyping facilities and space support in-house feasibility testing for new technologies.
- 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 facilities are located at IDA HQ, the National Design Centre (NDC) and the latest, at Jurong Regional Library. In addition, the IDA has also converted a 40-seater bus to become a roving IDA Lab on Wheels.

IDA Labs@HQ – This 300sqm facility located at IDA HQ primarily focuses on providing a platform where products and solutions from Singapore-based tech companies can be "plugged in" to a government environment to be experimented and tested for feasibility of use. On top of that, IDA Labs@HQ also provide a neutral platform for companies to collaborate with IDA and Singapore government agencies on projects or proof of concepts, as such, demonstrating their capabilities to potential users. In collaboration with the industry, IDA Labs@HQ also provides public officers with access to technology and hands-on experiment with new technologies.

IDA Labs@NDC – The 400 sqm facility is currently situated within the National Design Centre on Middle Road. Set up in collaboration with Design Singapore Council, IDA Labs@NDC targets technology and media professionals, as well as designers to collaborat on new products and services from the technology and design aspects. IDA Labs@NDC also serves as a meeting point for technology

professionals and companies where technology related events and technical meetups are held.

IDA Labs@NLB - A collaboration with the National Library Board, the third IDA Labs and the first in a heartlands location, was opened on 20 Nov 2015, a 135 sqm facility at the second floor of Jurong Regional Library. Library users can look forward to a dedicated space with tools and supplies that enable individuals to learn, create, invent, network and share skills and knowledge. Tools and equipment such as 3D printers and microcontrollers will enable tinkering in the library. Programmes will be jointly arranged by NLB and IDA and targeted at the broad spectrum of library users. These activities will cover both tech and non-tech areas such as hands-on workshops for students and families, technology talks for general public, crafting sessions for makers.

IDA Lab on Wheels - This is a converted 40-seater bus that houses different games technologies and activities for students such as game coding, programming a robot and tinkering with gadgets. An industry-led initiative, the Lab on Wheels was launched on 8 November 2014 and has since reached out to more than 30 schools and 8,000 students.

For media clarification, please contact:

Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore

Tan Boon Leng (Mr)

Manager, Corporate and Marketing Communications

Tel: +65 6211 0375

E-mail: Tan_Boon_Leng@ida.gov.sg
