



TiHAN Foundation at IIT Hyderabad and ICAT signed an MoU for collaboration in the area of autonomous navigation

Highlights:

- 1. MoU signed between TiHAN and ICAT for collaboration in R&D on the verticals of autonomous navigation**
- 2. Joint offering for collaboration with industry to work in autonomous navigation utilizing the technical expertise and infrastructure**
- 3. Training and capacity-building programs**
- 4. Startup programs and design challenges, including challenges for problem statements by industry and ministry**

Hyderabad, Jun 07, 2022: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the DST NMICPS Technology Innovation Hub on Autonomous Navigation (TiHAN) at IIT Hyderabad (IITH) and the International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) for collaboration in research and development in the emerging field of autonomous navigation. By combining the organization's strengths and capabilities, this partnership will support the innovation ecosystem, skill development, and entrepreneurship activities in the field of autonomous navigation systems. TiHAN-IITH and ICAT will collaborate to pool their technical expertise, infrastructure, expertise, and experience in the field of technological advancements.

"MoU signing between TiHAN-IITH and ICAT is a wonderful moment which has initiated a long-standing partnership between the organizations. The motto of IITH is Inventing and Innovating in Technology for Humanity, and TiHAN, which has been established with the vision of supporting activities related to Autonomous Navigation, is a feather in the cap of IITH. TiHAN Testbed is a state-of-the-art facility and the first of its kind in the nation for testing and validating different use cases of autonomous vehicles. Our association with ICAT will be a game-changer and will help both TiHAN and ICAT grow significantly together and for the nation", said Prof B S Murty, Director, IITH.

"The area of focus of TiHAN is a very important subject for the automotive industry currently. Autonomous vehicles are being talked about globally, and levels of autonomy are being implemented in Indian vehicles as well. ICAT is a flagship initiative under the Ministry of Heavy Industries and is focused on developing world-class infrastructure for full vehicle development, automotive testing, and certification. However, there is a void in creating an ecosystem for research and development to deliver services for generating IPs, innovation with Industry-academia collaboration, etc. ICAT is already developing an Incubation centre where the space and services will be provided to entrepreneurs for automotive development and testing. Academic courses in collaboration with IITH and ICAT can also be looked into under this agreement. Though this is a small step, if there is a will and wish, this association can make big ideas possible, beneficial to industry and academia. ", said Ms Pamela Tikku, Director, ICAT.

Explaining TiHAN- IITH efforts in Autonomous Navigation, Prof P Rajalakshmi, Project Director, TiHAN-IITH, said, *"The collaboration would not have been possible without the support and guidance of Prof Murty and Prof Mohan, Advisor-Innovation & Translational Research, IITH. TiHAN at IITH is working towards the vision of being the destination of next-generation mobility solutions providing a collaborative research platform for academia, industry, and R&D labs at both national and international levels. We look forward to timely and relevant collaborations and joint research initiatives with ICAT."*

Speaking about ICAT and future collaborations with TiHAN, Mr Ankit, Manager -Powertrain and Lead ICAT Incubation and Acceleration centre, *"Under ASPIRE, ICAT has taken a great initiative of implementing the interventions under the Capital goods scheme of Ministry of Heavy industry for reducing the import into the country. Autonomous navigation is going to have widespread applications across the domains where ICAT and*



TiHAN can synergize and collaborate. ICAT being a neutral entity and an active contributor to the regulatory framework of the country can seek and facilitate necessary interventions so that the products developed are not only market-ready but can also ensure compliance with the regulations of the country and reduce reiteration of work. Future collaborative works between ICAT and TiHAN include webinars, training and capacity building programs, startups, and design challenges for problem statements from the industry as well as the ministry.”

About TiHAN, IITH

Department of Science and Technology (DST), under National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS), has sanctioned the prestigious Technology Innovation Hub (TIH) in the technology vertical of Autonomous Navigation and Data Acquisition Systems (UAVs, ROVs, etc.). Technology Innovation Hub on Autonomous Navigation (TiHAN) at IITH is a multi-departmental initiative, including researchers from Electrical Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Civil Engineering, Mathematics, Design, Entrepreneurship at IITH with collaboration and support from reputed institutions and industry. As part of the project, we are setting up a first of its kind integrated testbed on Autonomous Navigations (Aerial/Terrestrial) on the IITH campus, which has state of the art facilities such as Proving Grounds, Test tracks, Mechanical integration facilities like Hangers, Ground control stations, State of the art Simulation tools (SIL, MIL, HIL, VIL), Test tracks/circuits, Road Infra – Smart Poles, signalized & unsignalized Intersections, Environment Emulators like Rainfall Simulators, V2X Communications, Drone Runways & Landing area, Control Test center. TiHAN-IITH is envisaged as the destination for collaborative research for next-generation mobility solutions between academia, industry, and RnD Labs, both national and international.

To know more, please visit: <https://www.tihan.iith.ac.in/>

About ICAT

ICAT is a division of the NATRIP Implementation Society, an independent registered society to implement the National Automotive Testing and R&D Infrastructure Project (“NATRIP”) for the Government of India. ICAT provides high-quality services – e.g., type approval/homologation certification, research & development, and technical information services - to customers to support them in meeting international standards for the development of vehicles and automotive components, automotive testing, research, and development.

To know more, please visit: <https://icat.in/>

About IIT Hyderabad

Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH) is one of the eight new IITs established by the Government of India in 2008. In a short span of 14 years, the institute has become a top ranker. Currently, it has 273 full-time faculty, 3,800+ students, nearly 200+ state-of-the-art laboratories, and five research and entrepreneurship centers. The institute has a strong research focus with approx Rs 525+ crore of sanctioned research funding, with PhD scholars accounting for about 30% of total student strength. IITH has more than 7,500+ research publications with 92,500+ Citations, 165 Published Patents, 1,700+ sponsored/consultancy projects so far with 500+ running projects, and about 100+ startups.

To know more, please visit: <https://www.iith.ac.in/>

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