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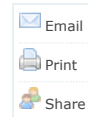
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Applied Materials, IITB to research on semiconductors

PTI

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Mumbai: The US based Applied Materials Inc., the global leader in Nanomanufacturing Technology solutions, on Tuesday announced that it would strengthen the scope of its research collaborations in the field of semiconductors with the Indian Institute of Technology (IITB) here.



As part of this collaboration, Applied Materials and IITB signed memorandum of understanding.

The nanomanufacturing company announced a donation of USD 1.5 million, over a period of three years to the IIT towards the already established Applied Materials Nanomanufacturing Laboratory (AMNL) at the Powai campus.

This was announced by the company's vice-president and chief Technology officer Dr Mark Pinto at a press conference.

The company earlier in November 2007 endowed the AMNL at IIT campus donating equipment valued at USD 7.5 million.

In last 20 months, IITB and Applied Materials had collaborated on Research and Development in the areas of semi conductor technology including the state-of-the-art flash memory chips, new transistor material photovoltaic and electrochemical energy conversion devices, he said.

These technologies are welcomed by our customers and they are considered world-class and have bright future, he said.

Applied Material's goal is to partner with leading ndian institutes like IIT and Indian Institute of science, Bangalore and serve as a catalyst in the development of India's nanomanufacturing eco-system, Pinto said.

Speaking on the occasion, Director IITB Prof Devang Khakhar said besides eight faculty members and 20 students (M Tech and PhD) from IIT, this AMNL will be used by the genuine users from any institute across the country under the National users programme of Ministry of Information Technology.

Making AMNL as a national facility promotes collaboration within Indian institutes or individual experts, allows running of such costly instruments at optimum level and also helps building manpower for this hi-tech areas, Khakhar said.

Pinto said, this collaboration with IITB and allowing other Indian experts to use the lab is a model.

Prof J Vasi, Professor of Electrical Engineering departmentalized of IIT who is involved with AMNL said besides the memory chips and photovoltaic materials, the lab is seriously working on the difficult transistor material `Hi K.

With Applied Materials, we should be able to make it soon, he said.

When asked about the Intellectual Property Rights, Vasi said the Applied Materials has no issues on IP and IP will always belong to the user.

However, on specific collaborative projects, the IP will be shared, Vasi said.

In the next two to three years, there is going to be major thrust on Energy area including Photovoltaic and there will be collaboration between department of Energy, chemistry and chemical engineering have been initiated already, he said.

There are huge opportunities for researchers from across the country for energy projects as it would be done under the National solar Mission using nanomanufacturing technologies, Vasi said.

Some of the users outside IITB include Amrita university, Kerala working on micro electric devices, IIT Delhi, Roorkee, University of Jammu and BITS Pilani, he said.

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There is a huge demand to use this lab and in the next two years the users will increase substantially, Vasi said.

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