

PRESS RELEASE

IIT Alumni Council announces second institutional partner in ICT Mumbai for MegaLab.

- ICT Mumbai to support MegaLab initiative as process engineering technology partner
- To support in development of RTqPCR 2.0 stack

RTqPCR 2.0 Stack to be deployed in MegaLab which will:

- Have ability to do multiple concurrent molecular diagnostic tests for C19, tuberculosis, dengue, chikungunya, HIV, Hepatitis, select cancers and some sexually transmitted diseases.
- Enable rapid thermocycling to achieve a 30-minute test time and ability to mount various versions of the microfluidic RTqPCR systems in vehicles including Ola Cabs and Covid19 Test Buses.
- Be designed ground up for the use of saliva and other low viral load samples such as sewage instead of throat swabs using PCR nesting.

New Delhi, June 16, 2020: IIT Alumni Council announced that it will partner ICT Mumbai in the MegaLab initiative. ICT Mumbai becomes the second institutional partner in the MegaLab initiative after Mumbai University – and will help upgrade the conventional RTqPCR kit manufacturing and testing lines to meet RTPCR2.0 targets on kit transportation and storage at room temperature, lower cost per test (through lower consumption of kit material) and per sample (through higher pooling ratio) and ability to manufacture the test kits and test kit constituents in large continuous process plants.

"IIT Alumni Council is very happy to welcome ICT Mumbai as its institutional partner for the MegaLab and RTPCR 2.0 initiative. MegaLab Mumbai will serve as the first key component of the national infrastructure for testing of infectious diseases. The process development and technology strengths of ICT Mumbai, their alumni, students and faculty will accelerate our path to self-sufficiency and global supremacy in this field . We are very pleased to partner with eminent institutions in pursuance of our nation building agenda" said Ravi Sharma , President , IIT Alumni Council .

"The students and alumni of ICT Mumbai and have always taken pride in research orientation of the institute. MegaLab Mumbai and RTqPCR 2.0 are excellent initiatives by IIT Alumni Council in the fight against covid19. It will meet the immediate need for mass testing though reliable , faster and cheaper genetic diagnostics – in addition to becoming a showpiece for indigenous technology and engineering capability." Said Prof Anirudha Pandit, an alumnus of IIT, member of the Board of Governors of IIT Bombay and Vice Chancellor of ICT Mumbai.

IIT Alumni Council, along with partner organizations has helped rapidly deploy innovative appropriate technologies to help meet the health crisis perpetuated by the c19 pandemic. These include AI based digital x-ray systems, contactless c19 isolation centre configurations, IOT systems for virtual hospitals, pool testing algorithms for RTPCR, c19 test bus, open indigenous technology stacks for testing like Kodoy and ultracompact indigenous ultrasound scanners with portable gene sequencing so that the entire functionality of the Covid bus launched on Maharashtra Day can now be fitted in a cab. Several companies are developing 100% indigenous kits – in both liquid and solid state form - under the Kodoy Open Source Stack license which are in various stages of manufacturing and approvals.

About ICT, Mumbai

Established on October 1, 1933 as University Department of Chemical Technology (popularly called UDCT) of the University of Bombay, with the noble intention of advancing India's knowledge reserves in chemical science and technology, the Institute has grown to become a premier (deemed) university devoted to education, training, research and industrial collaboration in chemical engineering, chemical technology, applied chemistry, pharmacy, biotechnology and bio-processing and rechristened as Institute of Chemical Technology (ICT) Mumbai. The Institute has signed a MOU with IIT Kharagpur for collaborating in various research activities. In May 2020, ICT was ranked in the top 100 universities under the Times Higher Education Asia rankings, ahead of most of the IITs. Eminent alumni of ICT, Mumbai include a large lineup of eminent technologists including Padma Vibhushan Prof MM Sharma, Mr Mukesh Ambani of Reliance Life Sciences, Dr Anji Reddy of Dr Reddy's

Laboratories and Padma Vibhushan Dr RA Mashelkar, former DG of CSIR. Since its inception, nineteen of the ICT Mumbai Alumni have received Padma Awards (Padma Shri to Padma Vibhushan).

About IIT Alumni Council

IIT Alumni Council is the largest global body of alumni, students and faculty across all the twenty-three IITs with 100+ city chapters globally. The C19 Task Force was set up in February 2020 by the Global Board of the IIT Alumni Council. The IIT Alumni Council aspires to catalyse India's technological renaissance. Its initiatives are financially supported by philanthropic foundations and Tier 1 social funds including the PanIIT Fund . Through its initiatives , IIT Alumni Council intends to act as a network and as a bridge between various providers of knowledge, wealth, information, wisdom, ideas, expertise and entrepreneurship to promote technological solutions to problems facing India. With involvement of over 20,000 technologist participants and over one hundred city chapters, the C19 Task Force set up by the IIT Alumni Council aspires to lead the fight against C19 by supplementing and complimenting the efforts of the central and state governments. The Council has rallied the considerable resources of the global IIT alumni ecosystem to catalyse technological and financial interventions in Mumbai city. For more information on IIT Alumni Council, please visit: www.iitalumnicouncil.org