



Founding Members



Media Release

Singapore, 15 July 2008 | For immediate release

The Technology Transfer Network announces the joining of its newest Founding Member, and finds global support, exponentially

1 The Technology Transfer Network (TTN) announced today that the Singapore Management University (SMU) has joined the Network as a Founding Member. In addition, TTN has also extended its global reach to add four new members to its fold, namely, Larta Institute and MaRS which would join as Affiliate Members, and Motorola and Imprimatur Capital as Associate Members. With the newest members, the TTN, founded in February 2008, hopes to enhance the effectiveness in the transfer of technology to the industry and strengthen Singapore's technology transfer. Information on TTN members is on page 5 onwards.

AIM Investment Programme

2 To tap this expanded capacity of the TTN, Mr Boon Swan Foo, Executive Chairman of Exploit Technologies, which is the strategic marketing and commercialisation arm of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), announced the launch of a new initiative on Innovation and Venture – Angel Investment Management (AIM) programme. AIM will be a catalyst and facilitator to encourage Angel networks to be formed in special interest groups. The programme seeks to encourage Angel investment in start-ups that will benefit aspiring entrepreneurs and inject new vibrancy into the Singapore economy. Exploit Technologies will establish and operate AIM with full-time resources, within the TTN alliance.

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- 3 Said Mr Lim Chuan Poh, Chairman of A*STAR: “The new members will provide TTN with richer and more varied perspectives and insights that will further enhance and maximise the potential for the commercialisation of research outcomes. TTN is now well-placed to facilitate technology transfers in various industries and across geographical regions to extend Singapore’s outreach, advance the spirit of innovation and enterprise, and benefit the industry world-wide”.
- 4 Mr Boon Swan Foo, Executive Chairman of Exploit Technologies and the Chairman of the Technology Transfer Network said, “The TTN warmly welcomes SMU, Larta Institute, MaRS, Motorola and Imprimatur Capital onboard our TTN team. I am confident that SMU’s capabilities and industry relevance will add to the TTN a robust perspective in bringing good technologies to the industry.
- 5 “We would also like to cheer on our new global members, Larta Institute, MaRS, Motorola and Imprimatur Capital, which bring with them from the United States and Canada, their experiences and strengths in innovation and commercialisation.
- 6 “TTN has provided our members with an excellent window to the rest of the world. With the introduction of the Angel Investment Management programme, we urge all members to tap on the invaluable expertise and resources of our TTN colleagues in commercialisation, investment and innovation. We are at an important inflexion point of Singapore's innovation and enterprise development, with strong collaboration both locally and internationally established with the formation of the TTN. Most importantly, we will see the fruits of a 'network' effect occurring with such an exponential increase of capabilities, skills and IPs in the network.”
- 7 Practice Professor Desai Arcot Narasimhalu, Chairman of the SMU Business Innovations Generator and Associate Dean, School of Information Systems, SMU said, “SMU is delighted to be a Founding Member of the TTN and we are committed to contribute to accelerating the transfer of technology to the industry. Research and innovation are important activities undertaken at SMU – both by students and at the faculty level. There is a wealth of untapped knowledge and expertise which have potential market viability. We look forward to an invigorating journey ahead where all

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TTN members share about the best practices in commercialisation of research outcomes, and a good opportunity to build strategic relationships with the industry.”

Background on revised MOU

- 8 The Founding Members form the Board of the TTN, which provides leadership to TTN in the form of contribution of expertise and resources and to participate in specific Interest Groups of relevance, as well as formulates the ongoing strategic direction of the TTN in consideration of the TTN’s Charter.
- 9 Both the Affiliate Members and Associate Members will be able to participate in enhanced collaboration with the network of TTN members to share best practices, leverage expertise and resources, and collaborate on networking opportunities to enhance technology transfer to the industry globally.
- 10 The first memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed on 12 February 2008 by and amongst the seven initial Founding Members will be replaced with a revised MOU to include SMU as a Founding Member.

Information on new members

- 11 Since its incorporation in January 2000 as Singapore’s first private university to introduce the American model of tertiary education, SMU has aimed to be a premier university, internationally recognised for its world class research and distinguished teaching. Research and innovation are vital elements in SMU’s drive towards becoming a world-class university. By coming on board as the eighth founding member of the TTN, SMU hopes to contribute towards accelerating the transfer of technology to the industry.
- 12 The two newest affiliate members, namely Larta Institute and MaRS, will bolster the collective competencies amongst the TTN members. Larta Institute is a professional services firm providing entrepreneurial training, commercialisation, and technology transfer services for governments, companies, and universities in the United States; and MaRS is a non-profit innovation centre connecting science, technology and social entrepreneurs with business skills, networks and capital to stimulate innovation and accelerate the creation and growth of successful enterprises in Canada.

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- 13 Motorola, which has joined as an Associate Member, is a global communications leader, powered by, and driving, seamless mobility. Another new Associate Member is Imprimatur Capital, which has an operational investment business active on an international basis and focused on the commercialisation of high-growth IP backed opportunities from Universities, research institutes and other sources.

BACKGROUND ON TTN

Mission and Founding of the Technology Transfer Network (TTN)

The TTN is a collaborative alliance of technology transfer offices formed to enhance the effectiveness of technology transfer to industry. The core activities of the TTN include IP cluster mapping, training and certification of TTO professionals, joint marketing and events, technology advisory services, industry collaboration, and regular dialogue and sharing of best practices.

The TTN was formed in Singapore on February 12, 2008, with seven Founding Members, namely:

- i. Exploit Technologies;
- ii. Nanyang Polytechnic;
- iii. Nanyang Technopreneurship Centre;
- iv. Ngee Ann Polytechnic;
- v. Republic Polytechnic;
- vi. Singapore Polytechnic; and
- vii. Temasek Polytechnic.

In Singapore, the Singapore Management University (SMU) joined as a Founding Member in July 2008.

Global Partners

In less than six months, TTN added as Affiliate Members the Office of Technology Alliances of the University of California, Irvine, CONNECT and Global CONNECT. The Technology Transfer Tactics joined as an Associate Member in June 2008.

To date, TTN's global members include:

- i. CONNECT of San Diego;
- ii. Global CONNECT (with operations globally);
- iii. Office of Technology Alliances (OTA), University of California, Irvine;
- iv. Larta Institute (Los Angeles);
- v. MaRS (of Canada);
- vi. Technology Transfer Tactics (global publication and thought leader on tech transfer best practices);

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- vii. Motorola; and
- viii. Imprimatur Capital (global early-stage tech investment firm)

For further information on TTN and the new members, please contact:

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About the Technology Transfer Network (TTN)

The Technology Transfer Network is a collaborative alliance of Technology Transfer Offices formed to enhance the effectiveness in the transfer of technology to the industry. The core activities of the TTN include collaboration on IP Cluster Mapping, Training & Certification of TTO professionals, Joint Marketing & Events, Technology Advisory Services, Industry Collaboration and regular dialogue and sharing of best practices.

About the TTN Logo

The arc represents:

- i. the link and value chain for technology transfer from research to the industry; and
- ii. the symbol of global vision, that the TTN will become a global network.

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All enquiries on the TTN can be directed to:

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NEW FOUNDING MEMBER

About Singapore Management University

Incorporated on 12 January 2000, Singapore Management University (SMU) aims to groom outstanding business leaders and creative entrepreneurs capable of excelling in a rapidly changing and dynamic world. Today, SMU is home to more than 6,000 students and comprises six schools: Lee Kong Chian School of Business, School of Accountancy, School of Economics, School of Social Sciences, School of Information Systems and School of Law. SMU offers bachelor's, master's and PhD degree programmes in business and management-related areas, ranging from Accountancy, Economics, Finance, Wealth Management, Law, Information Systems and Social Science. It also has a dedicated Office of Research, a number of centres of excellence, and provides public and customized programmes through Executive Education. Collaborations with leading institutions, including The Wharton School, Carnegie Mellon, the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Chicago, allow SMU to draw on academic and research strengths across all major disciplines. The SMU campus is a state-of-the-art facility located right in the heart of Singapore's civic and business district. www.smu.edu.sg

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FOUNDING MEMBERS (initial Founding Members)

About Exploit Technologies Pte Ltd

Exploit Technologies is the strategic marketing and commercialisation arm of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR). Its mission is to support A*STAR in transforming the economy through commercialising R&D. Exploit Technologies enhances the research output of A*STAR scientists by translating their inventions into marketable products or processes. Through licensing deals and spin-offs with industry partners, Exploit Technologies is a key driver of technology transfer in Singapore. It actively engages industry leaders and players to commercialise A*STAR's technologies and capabilities, bridging the gap from Mind to Market. Exploit Technologies' charter is to identify, protect and exploit promising intellectual property (IP) created by A*STAR's research institutes.

For more information, please visit <http://www.exploit-tech.com>

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About Nanyang Polytechnic

Nanyang Polytechnic is a modern tertiary institution that offers quality education in engineering, design, interactive & digital media, IT, business management, health sciences and chemical & life sciences. With the mission to prepare its graduates for life and work, NYP constantly collaborates with the industry in cutting-edge technology projects, so as to provide relevance and a firm foundation for its students. For more information, visit: <http://www.nyp.sg>.

About Nanyang Technopreneurship Center (NTC)

NTC is a multi-disciplinary university-level center of the Nanyang Technological University and is the focal point for education on entrepreneurship and technology innovation within the University and the region. NTC's specific interest in the Technology Transfer Network is to solely participate in the education aspects of the TTN. For more information on NTC, please visit www.ntu.edu.sg/ntc.

About Ngee Ann polytechnic

Ngee Ann Polytechnic is one of Singapore's leading institutions of higher learning. The polytechnic offers both business-related and technology-based diploma and advanced diploma programmes. The polytechnic aims to provide relevant, balanced and value-added curricula by creating an effective teaching and learning environment. A key thrust for the polytechnic is forging partnerships with industry and other institutions in order to keep students close to current industry and market practices. For more information, please visit www.np.edu.sg.

About Republic Polytechnic

The first educational institution in Singapore to adopt the Problem-Based Learning approach for all its diploma programmes, Republic Polytechnic has five schools and two centres offering twenty nine diploma courses in Information & Communications Technology, Engineering, Applied Science, Technology for the Arts, Sports, Health & Leisure, Innovation and Enterprise, and Culture and Communication. Republic Polytechnic is committed to nurturing innovation and entrepreneurial learning in an environment that develops problem-solving process skills and a life-long learning attitude. Its holistic, broad-based curriculum, covering culture, enterprise development and cognitive processes, prepares students for an active and meaningful role in society.

About Singapore Polytechnic

Established in 1954 to meet the manpower needs identified by the government, Singapore Polytechnic (SP) is Singapore's first educational institution of its kind. Its nine academic schools offer 44 full-time diploma courses for its 14,900 students and courses are kept relevant through close links with industry and government bodies, as well as with various overseas institutions.

SP offers broad-based, multi-disciplinary and flexible curriculum dedicated to hands-on experience and is committed to the development of its applied research and development capability to enhance the quality of teaching and commercialisation efforts.

Beyond the classroom, close to 90 student clubs covering areas like arts, culture, sports and community service make student life vibrant and fulfilling. The presence of foreign students from countries such as China, India, Myanmar and Indonesia also provides a variety of cultures and perspectives, nurturing a global mindset in Singapore Polytechnic students.

Among SP's 144,400 graduates are successful entrepreneurs, top executives in multinational and public-listed corporations, and well-known professionals, many of whom are captains of industries, university professors and researchers, and leaders in government.

Please visit www.sp.edu.sg.

About Temasek Polytechnic

Temasek Polytechnic (TP) is a significant contributor to the field of para-professional education in Singapore and a pioneer in Problem-based Learning (PBL). Our combination of hands-on experience, relevant life skills and an enriching learning environment enables our graduates to excel in both career and life. Through our holistic approach to education, we ensure TP graduates are economy relevant, future relevant and life relevant. The Polytechnic is also a firm believer in forging partnerships with industry to keep students close to current industry practice. TP currently offers 45 full-time diploma courses in the areas of Applied Science, Business, Design, Engineering, Humanities & Social Sciences and Informatics & IT and over 40 part-time courses, up to the Advanced Diploma level. For more information, please visit www.tp.edu.sg

ASSOCIATE MEMBER

About Technology Transfer Tactics

Technology Transfer Tactics (TTT) provides in-depth guidance designed to hasten and streamline the commercialisation process, as well as maximise the financial benefits of that process for organisations.

TTT is the first international monthly periodical devoted exclusively to best practices, 'how to' and practicalities of technology transfer". It is now 13 months old. There are over 1,000 monthly readers in its multinational audience. Its sister periodical, the ezine Tech Transfer e-News, is distributed weekly to over 130,000 professionals worldwide.

Every article in TT is results-oriented and carefully crafted to bring readers useable tactics in every key area of the tech transfer challenge. TTT provides readers with extensive case studies, best practices, expert guidance and how-to strategies.

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AFFILIATE MEMBERS

About the Office of Technology Alliances, University of California, Irvine

The Office of Technology Alliances, University of California Irvine exists to foster faculty/industry alliances and commercialization of UC Irvine technology for the broad public benefit. OTA emphasizes accessibility, timeliness, and flexibility in its operations and negotiations to ensure that the federal, state and private investment in UCI research has the greatest possible positive impact on people and the economy. Irvine is one of the designated growth campuses in the University of California system.

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UC Irvine was established in 1965 as the ninth campus in the University of California system, the largest research university in the world. The UC system has 15,000 faculty researchers, carries out \$4 billion in research annually and manages three Department of Energy National Laboratories (Lawrence Livermore, Lawrence Berkeley and Los Alamos).

All enquiries related to the Office of Technology Alliances, University of California, Irvine can be directed to:

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About CONNECT

CONNECT collaborates with scientists, engineers, innovators and the venture capital community, to commercialize technology and build successful companies.

Twenty years ago the University of California at San Diego, local San Diego businesses, and the city government created CONNECT to transform San Diego based institutional research into a center for technological innovation commercialization.

Over the course of the last two decades, CONNECT has worked with thousands of companies and played a leading role in creating a flourishing ecosystem that now consists of several thousand high tech, software and life science companies. San Diego is considered a world leader in wireless and one of the top centers for biotech in the world. CONNECT has become a model emulated in cities around the world seeking to develop innovation clusters.

CONNECT's scope of work includes outreach to the regional universities and research institutions, helping innovators evaluate the commercial potential of their discoveries, negotiate licensing deals and launch companies.

For more information, please visit <http://www.connect.org>.

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About Global CONNECT

In the late 1990's, a number of organizations inspired by CONNECT in San Diego were founded in Northern Europe, in particular Connect Scotland and CONNECT Sweden.

At the same time, groups from around the world were beating a path to CONNECT's door, drawn by press reports of San Diego's transformation from a sleepy Navy town into a high-tech center. In addition, a number of people at UCSD, notably Associate Vice Chancellor Mary Walshok, a co-founder of CONNECT in 1985, had a strong interest in regional innovation systems worldwide.

These influences and interests came together in the founding of Global CONNECT in 2003.

Global CONNECT seeks to work with regions around the world to understand and further develop their innovation systems. We believe that linking these regions through the Global CONNECT membership network serves the interests of all regions, including San Diego.

For more information, please visit <http://globalconnect.ucsd.edu>

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