

Infosys partners with IIT-B for a green makeover

Anahita Mukherji | TNN

Mumbai: Infosys has several gigantic energy-guzzling data centres across the country that store vast amounts of information. Now, the information-technology giant is looking to turn its data centres green—a task that requires some of the best and brightest minds in the scientific world.

For this, the company has turned to the IIT-Bombay Monash Research Academy, one of the most high-profile col-

Mahesh Benkar



The IIT-Bombay Monash Research Academy was inaugurated on November 26, 2008—the day Mumbai was attacked by terrorists. This year, the academy will celebrate its first anniversary at Trident, one of the hotels that the terrorists had laid siege to

laborations between an Indian institute and one from Australia. Incidentally, both IIT-B and Melbourne's Monash University were born in 1958.

On Saturday, Infosys pledged its support as one of the foundation partners for the

academy. In addition to green data centres, there are a number of projects for which Infosys hopes to collaborate with the academy.

Other companies that are partnering with the academy include Shell, BHP Billiton, Australian Stem Cell Centre and Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation.

At the IIT Bombay Monash Research Academy's Future Challenges Summit, organised by the Australian Trade Commission, Infosys founder Narayan Murthy, also the chairman of the academy's research advisory council, said the collaboration between Monash and IIT-B was vital for industry as it would provide innovative solutions to the problems that faced the world.

The research projects undertaken by the University range from nanotechnology to clean energy. "We're also doing research on new membranes for water purification. Issues related to the management of water resources are common to both Australia and India. While Australia is one of the driest continents in the world, in India, water contamination is a problem," said professor Mohan Krishnamoorthy, academy CEO.

The academy, which has been in existence for nearly a year, has over 30 PhD fellows on board. Located on the IIT-B campus, it hopes to increase its intake to 300 over the next few years. The faculty at the academy are both from India as well as Australia.

While all the PhD scholars at the academy are currently from India, IIT-B director Devang Khakhar said that eventually, the academy aimed at getting PhD students from across the world.