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News Release

SMART's new Innovation Office to launch scientists from bench to business
- Singapore officially launches SGInnovate – connecting tech entrepreneurs with industry mentors, venture capitalists and research talent
- SMART@SGInnovate, an integral part of the startup ecosystem, seeks to deepen collaboration and co-creation of innovative solutions through its training programmes

Singapore – In tandem with the official launch of SGInnovate – to connect tech entrepreneurs with industry mentors, venture capitalists and research talent – the Singapore-MIT Alliance for Research and Technology (SMART) [新加坡-麻省理工学院科研中心] launched its new SMART@SGInnovate office today.

Housed on the fifth floor of SGInnovate's office at 32 Carpenter Street, SMART's new office is a physical extension of the SMART Innovation Centre – an entity under the ambit of SMART that models and expands on the Deshpande Center for Technological Innovation at MIT. The SMART Innovation Centre has worked closely with the local ecosystem since 2009 to nurture scientists and engineers so that their innovations can be accelerated to commercialisation. The SMART Innovation Centre offers two sets of grants (Innovation Grant and Ignition Grant), supported by the National Research Foundation (NRF), Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Singapore, in the areas of deep technology as well as physical and biological-oriented science and engineering known as the deep sciences. As a leading Innovation Centre, experienced in training innovators and startups, SMART's flagship programmes include:

a. SMART Catalyst – SMART has developed a network of trained people who are catalysts with domain knowledge in deep tech and science to help drive projects to company formation and commercial impact.

b. SMART Bootcamp – Each recipient of the SMART Innovation Grant must attend a three-week entrepreneurship bootcamp, where they learn the fundamentals of venture building in deep tech and science.

c. SMART Innovation Fellowship – SMART Innovation Centre offers a four-month Innovation Fellowship programme aimed primarily at postdoctoral fellows in deep tech and science areas, to develop a talent group of Chief Technology Officers (CTOs) and Chief Science Officers (CSOs) for deep tech and science startup companies.

One successful startup that has undergone its programme includes Visenti – a smart water analytics company from SMART - which has just been acquired by Xylem in Nov 2016.

Howard Califano, Director, SMART Innovation Centre, said: "Singapore has a vibrant entrepreneurial scene which can be enabled further with a stronger ecosystem that ties in all parties at the different levels of innovation; and it is very encouraging that the government has taken the lead in making this

a reality, with a strong focus on the finance, energy and health sectors. We are confident that SMART@SGInnovate will be a critical node in the SGInnovate network, serving as a platform for scientists, engineers and researchers and its partners to co-create new solutions for Singapore and beyond."

Daniel Hastings, SMART CEO & Director, said: "Propelling scientists and researchers from bench to business takes a lot of gumption, tenacity and above all, a network and links to a strong ecosystem. SMART is committed to working in close collaboration with all stakeholders in this ecosystem to make innovative solutions a reality in Singapore and beyond. MIT wants to learn about innovation through the activities of SMART@SGInnovate."

The SMART Innovation Centre is funded through SMART, which is supported by NRF, PMO, Singapore under its Campus for Research Excellence and Technological Enterprise (CREATE) programme.

Officially launched by Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister for Economic and Social Policies, SGInnovate will focus on enabling aspiring entrepreneurs in Singapore to build, commercialise and scale complex, innovative technological solutions for Singapore that will have global applications. SMART@SGInnovate is located on the fifth floor at 32 Carpenter Street and comprises an office and a training centre. To participate in any of the programmes, please email: candy@smart.mit.edu

About Singapore-MIT Alliance for Research and Technology (SMART) [新加坡-麻省理工学院科研中心]

Singapore-MIT Alliance for Research and Technology (SMART) is a major research enterprise established by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in partnership with the National Research Foundation of Singapore (NRF) since 2007. It is the first entity in the Campus for Research Excellence and Technological Enterprise (CREATE) developed by NRF.

SMART serves as an intellectual hub for research interactions between MIT and Singapore. Cutting-edge research projects in areas of interest to both Singapore and MIT are undertaken at SMART. SMART comprises an Innovation Centre and five Interdisciplinary Research Groups (IRGs): BioSystems and Micromechanics (BioSyM), Center for Environmental Sensing and Modeling (CENSAM), Infectious Diseases (ID), Future Urban Mobility (FM) and Low Energy Electronic Systems (LEES). Please see - http://smart.mit.edu

About SMART Innovation Centre

SMART Innovation Centre operates under the Singapore-MIT Alliance for Research and Technology (SMART) and is funded by the National Research Foundation (NRF). Similar to the highly successful Deshpande Center for Technological Innovation at MIT, the SMART Innovation Centre identifies and nurtures a broad range of emerging technologies including but not limited to biotechnology, biomedical devices, information technology, new materials, nanotechnology, and energy innovations and will act as a catalyst to create a fertile environment for faculty and student entrepreneurship to grow. It administers a Grant Programme that enables faculty and students to pursue exciting new avenues of market-driven research and participate in programmes that will help accelerate their innovations toward commercialisation. Please see - http://smart.wishbonedev.com/innovation-centre/about-smart-innovation-centre

About CREATE [卓越研究与科技企业学园]

The Campus for Research Excellence And Technological Enterprise (CREATE) is an international research campus and innovation hub which houses an international collaboratory of research centres set up by top global universities and research institutes in Singapore. CREATE has about 30,000 square metres of laboratory space in four buildings that house some 1,300 researchers. CREATE was officially opened by Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on 16 November 2012. Situated in the National University of Singapore's University Town (NUS U-Town), CREATE is in the vicinity of the other Singapore high-tech centres such as Biopolis, Fusionopolis and the Science Parks. Please see - http://www.create.edu.sg/