

Student Startup Support System: Co-Creation Center Activities at S4-C3

The Student Startup Support System: Co-Creation Center (S4-C3) is located at the Ahmedabad Campus of Gujarat Technological University, 2nd floor, ACPC building, LDCE complex, Ahmedabad -380015. Within the very 1st month of its kick off, S4-C3 has created buzz and impact. This center has been truly a co-creation space where young student startups from various GTU affiliated colleges are working together. The efforts at S4 are truly inclusive as it has virtually linked to all entrepreneurial ecosystems existing in and around and lead entrepreneurs are regularly mentoring the future startups. S4 is holding regular sessions involving existing startups and their ecosystems.

This co-creation has been unique in terms of giving access to potential teams and providing the necessary infrastructure. Mr. Yash saxena and other coordinators have organized a series of activities targeting various sections of startup value chain and started guiding the teams. This co-creation center is bringing designers, engineers, fabricators, market persons and mentors together on a regular basis. S4-C3 is providing tangible and intangible support system to the new entrepreneurs. All the activities have been prototyped and are being implemented at central level in the first round. GTU plans to scale it up to the GTU Innovation Sankuls.

Having a wide access to a pool of skilled students, having links with a large faculty community for technical support, having a penetration to the existing start up ecosystem and possessing an open and flexible approach in collaboration, S4 is poised to define new pedagogy of co-creation environment within an affiliated type technology university. Though students are meeting all through the day and through S4-C3 is buzzing with youthful energy every day, some of the distinctive activities are reported on the next few pages.

Activity I: Friday, 14th June, 2013:

Introduction to TLabs Accelerator (Times Initiative):

For the REPORT of 14th June 2013 program: '**S4 hosts TLabs Mixer to connect students to seed funding agencies**', please see:

<http://www.gtu.ac.in/circulars/13June/17062013.pdf>.

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Activity II: Friday, 29th June, 2013:

Host : Point10 ventures and GTU Innovation Council

Event: eChai Afterhours @ S4-GTU

We hosted a session with point10 where entrepreneurs discussed the various issues and challenges they are facing in their business models and scaling with among themselves. The participants, most of whom were pursuing their own ventures pitched their problems and received feedback from the participants. Other participants presented the speaker examples of how to overcome their problems and solutions through their own previous experiences. Around 12 startups continued a 10 hour session. Mr Yash Saxena and Jatin Chaudhary coordinated the event and made it a grand success.

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Activity III: Friday, 12th July, 2013:

Event: S4 Orientation Program

S4 hosted an orientation session for GTU alumni (students who have passed out in past 2-3 years) who want to access S4 co working space. Participants explained their startup ideas and had mentors provided them with their feedback on their ideas. For example, one student group has proposed plan to have startup to make digital Bus Depot system however they faced issues in launching their plans. The gathering advised the startup team to first launch the program for a simple AMTS station rather than BRTS.

It was highly interactive session. S4 staff explained to the students how S4 intends to provide them support and the vision of S4 centre.

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Activity IV: Friday, 19th July, 2013:

Host : Point10 ventures and GTU Innovation Council

Event: eChai Insights @ S4-GTU

Team Building & Work Culture

The event received a huge response from start-up entrepreneurs. The theme of the event was team building and work culture. Entrepreneurs shared their experience on topics and gave examples from their own work. For example, **Mr. Rakesh Patel**, owner of Space of Infocom explained different strategies which can work for a company to create team building and work culture. The crowd consisted of small to large scale entrepreneurs discussing about organizational culture. **Jwalant Patel** from Nationsroot was also one of the speakers at the session. The event was moderated by Mr. Jatin Chaudhary , co-founder of point10.

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This center has been ably supported by team GIC and team S4 who are engaged in scouting, supporting, scaling the student lead startups from diversified background. Many national and international start up ecosystems are already in touch with the center to tap potential student startups to take them to next orbit.

Mr. Hiranmay Mahanta , MD Techpedia and a team of early stage start up initiator have made an effort to extend the activities to support student innovation led enterprises to increase access at bottom level and colleges of all tiers . The 1st such experiment was conducted at GTU Innovation Sankuls at Rajkot and a sensitization workshop was successfully attempted by more than 600 students from pre final year and final year on 3rd August 2013. Half a dozen successfully running start up by students were scouted and the exciting thing was that GTU's innovation system is leading to sprouting of innovative ideas among GTU students at the pre-Final Year also.

*After the plans for setting up the **S4 Co-Creation Center** were finalized, an Invitation to students/faculties : to apply for joining the S4 Center was published on 13th August 2012. Please see: http://www.gtu.ac.in/circulars/13June/S4_Circular-7th%20June%202013%20for%20students_faculties_GTU.pdf.*