

IT NEWSLETTERS FEBRUARY & MARCH 2009

"New"-s February 2009

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Upcoming Events

"Construct Organisation Website Appropriately to Enhance Business"
Venue : Conference Room,
4th Floor, STP Complex,
SDF Building, Sector-V,
Kolkata - 700091
Date : 21 April, 2009
Website : www.nasscom.org

Quote of the Month

"West Bengal has built an investment friendly image.....the fundamentals are strong and Bengal continues to be a good product."

- Director General,
Confederation
of Indian Industry

"New"-s March 2009

ITC infotech plans expansion
BSNL 3G mobile service arrives in Bengal
State Data Centre took off
HDFC to open back office in Kolkata
PWC goes on expansion spree
Integrated IT township at Kalyani
Microsoft centre of excellence in property research and technology
Bengal tops in the country for power supply
Bengal ranked No 1 in FDI inflow between January and October 2008

City Company flourishes

Kolkata based IT company Coral Softwares Ltd., is planning to invest Rs. 300 crores to provide ERP software services. The company is targeting to the emerging SME sector. The present SME market size of business solution is about 600 crores which are growing at the rate of 24% annually. Coral is targeting 20% of the market share in the next 5 years. The company which launched its flagship product on ERP in 2007 is already having products like ACE and X-cise. The company is primarily targeting the manufacturing sector in growing domestic market as well as planning to enter Brazil, Indonesia and SAARC and Middle East countries.

Bengal looks beyond recession

In prevailing economic downturn, though IT growth in West Bengal is slowed, the state is expected to record a growth rate more than the national predicted growth rate. IT in West Bengal grew around 43% in dollar terms against the national growth of 29% during the last financial year. During the recession time, the state plans to give more emphasis on development of IT infrastructure and human resource, so that it is ready when recession subsides. The state govt. has already started construction of IT incubation centers in Kolkata, Durgapur & Siliguri; some of them are expected to be completed by the end of this year. Some more projects of similar nature are expected to commence in Kolkata and Kalyani soon. The state is also planning to build an Animation Park. Some of the leading companies of national and international repute have evinced interest to be located there. In another initiative the IT Dept. has joined hands with different universities in the state to produce more industry ready people. The state is also promoting Finishing Schools for engineers.

City Company features in 'Exciting Company' list

A city IT company Acclaris India finds a place in NASSCOM's list of exciting and emerging companies to work with. This is an exercise conducted by NASSCOM in partnership with Right Management India. Over 13000 employees from 61 small & mid- sized IT and BPO organizations in India participated in this exercise. Acclaris, a US headquartered company, is primarily focusing on the Health Care segment and expects to grow 50% this year, despite a challenging business climate. The company has grown remarkably and presently operates in India out of offices in Kolkata, Siliguri & Visakapatnam. The company has partnered with different universities in West Bengal to help them in producing the right talent for the industry.

Jadavpur University gets third campus

The premier city institute, Jadavpur University has taken a new initiative in their third campus in Kolkata. The University took over a sick unit and is creating a world class incubation and innovation centre there. The centre will encourage students, research scholars and teachers to take up innovative projects to become entrepreneurs. The University plans to strengthen the industry academia partnership which will help the institutes to successfully run the center.

Dhunseri Enters into infotech Park

City based 1250-crores Dhunseri Group with interests in Tea and Petrochemicals has entered into IT arena to create an SEZ IT space. The facility will house 7000 IT professionals once completed. The group tied up with State Bank of India to develop their proposed 130 crores twin-tower I.T Park at Bantala Special Economic Zone.

New IT Park project in Kolkata

Realty Group Ambuja has launched their Rs. 140 crore maiden IT Park project Ecospace at New Town, Rajarhat. The first phase of the park is almost ready and will be up and running by April. The IT Park has attracted reputed clients who will be operating from there. The Group will also launch high-end City Centre II by the middle of this year at New Town as well as a business hotel. The Group is buoyant on the success of the projects.

State to multiply VC fund size

In this global meltdown, the IT Department in West Bengal has decided to encourage more and more budding IT companies in the State. Large incubation facilities have been planned in Kolkata, Durgapur and Siliguri to support start-up companies in the State. The government has also decided to multiply the size of state run Venture Fund which will benefit more start-up companies. The state VC Company is in the process of registering with Security and Exchange Board of India.

Kolkata hosts PVSEC-18

The State has reasons to cheer as it outbid 50 countries to host the 18th international Photovoltaic Science & Engineering Conference & Exhibition (PVSEC-18) in Kolkata. The conference was held after 16 years in India. At present West Bengal generates 25% of the countries total solar power. It has already attracted an investment of Rs. 4000 crores in the solar power segment out of which Rs. 2600 crores will be in manufacturing segment. The PVSEC-18 is an international conference of repute where almost 50 countries including Japan, Korea & U.S participated.

Development in Mobile Telephone

City based Mobile handset manufacturer Gee Pee infotech is planning to set up a Research & Development Centre in West Bengal in technology partnership with companies in Japan and China. The company aims to make mobile phones affordable to every segment of people in India. The company also feels that after-sales-service is the key to success and hence the company has already opened a number of their service centers at all the important cities and strategic locations. The company has brought out a Rs. 7500 touch-screen mobile phone which is competing with I-Phone. The company is offering GSM hand set at less than 1000 Rupees with color display audio and video features. Telecom is one industry which has not been impacted so much by the economic down-turn and has been growing both in Urban and Rural Bengal.

ITC infotech plans expansion

ITC Infotech India Limited, the IT arm of Kolkata based Indian Tobacco Company is poised to make huge expansion when the company focuses on solutions like Customer Relationship Management (CRM), Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), trade promotion management, sales force automation and loyalty management. The market for both CRM and ERP is enormous and although there are many players in the market, ITC infotech enjoys the benefit of its domain knowledge with world class capabilities to deliver business friendly solution to most of the industry verticals. The company can also leverage the domain knowledge available in its own companies who are operating in diverse fields. The company is already providing cutting edge business solutions to reduce customer cost and to increase competitiveness.

BSNL 3G mobile service arrives in Bengal

Durgapur and Haldia in West Bengal are brought under the much talked about 3G, (3rd generation mobile service) while such service in Kolkata is being under process and will arrive very shortly. BSNL is increasing the number of base transceiver from 23 to 39 at Durgapur and from 7 to 11 at Haldia. 3G service will be made available in almost all the district Head Quarters and few other important towns like Siliguri by the end of this year. A specific 3G handset is required to get this facility which includes Video call, live TV, super speed mobile internet surfing and video streaming.

State Data Centre took off

By end this year, State Data Centre is expected to come live. The construction work of this facility is in full swing at Salt Lake, Sector V. The SDC facility is a one-stop repository for key information which the Govt. Departments may use for their data storage and retrieval. The State Data Centre will store crucial information of the Govt. Departments centrally and chances of misplacing information can be eliminated. This will be monitored initially by IT Department.

HDFC to open back office in Kolkata

Kolkata continues to attract IT investment, beating the slowdown, while HDFC Bank decides to setup an integrated operation hub in Kolkata to undertake the Bank's entire back office operation in Eastern India. This will be a facility after Mumbai, Delhi and Chennai. The Bank has already committed 1 lack sq. ft. in a prestigious IT Park in Kolkata to locate this hub which will undertake various processing operation such as account management, fixed deposit and loan monitoring of 125 retail branches across Eastern India. The facility aims at centralizing bank operation in one place. The facility will kick off from zone with 300 people to be employee initially and will go up 900 people in course of time.

PWC goes on expansion spree

Again, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) requisitioned for an additional space of 1 lack sq. ft. in a commercial building at Salt Lake, Sector V. The economic downturn could not dampen the expansion pace of the company in Kolkata when the group's advisory services with performance improvement and tax consultancy will start operation in a big way in this new facility. PwC is also constructing a second tower in their adjacent own facility to accommodate their expansion program.

Integrated IT township at Kalyani

An integrated IT township on a 100 acres land has been planed in Kalyani, about 45 K.M away from National/International airport in Kolkata. The land is located on Kalyani - Barrackpur expressway. The project will be developed on a public/private partnership format in which 50% of the land will be devoted to create an IT SEZ and the balance will be developed by the private partner as an integrated social facility consisting of residential, commercial and institutional activities. Expression of Interest (EOI) has already been invited from the prospective partners and the selection process is in progress.

Microsoft centre of excellence in property research and technology

Microsoft partnered with IIT Kharagpur has set up Microsoft centre of excellence in property research and technology (MSCIP) in order to carry out research on intellectual property. The new entity is working on to develop a right curriculum through a Consortium of students, faculty members from corporate. The facility will be opened to both students and professionals. Microsoft will support this venture with financial assistance. One of the primary components of the program is Microsoft intellectual property Scholar Program (MSP) which will provide scholarships to students in reorganization of their academic excellence and encourage establishing a knowledge bank in the area of IP.

Bengal tops in the country for power supply

In recognition for a steady power supply in the state West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company has been awarded a Gold Medal. Central Electricity Authority has judged WBSEDC as the no. 1 distribution agency in the country. The prize was awarded by the President of India.

Bengal ranked No 1 in FDI inflow between January and October 2008

Bengal has achieved the top slot in attracting foreign direct investment between January and October 2008, beating Maharastra, Delhi, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat. The approval of Petrochemical Investment Region in Haldia will further strengthen the state's position. This was made possible by a huge expansion program by Mitsubishi Chemicals. State attracted 3700 crore during this period which is 27% of the total FDI in the country in these ten months.