

Huawei sets up IoT accelerator with NUS

Called i5Lab, the accelerator will aim to help startups fast-track their development into Huawei's partners

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NUS Enterprise, the entrepreneurial arm of the National University of Singapore (NUS), in partnership with China's telecommunications equipment company Huawei, has launched an Internet-of-Things (IoT)-focused accelerator, known as i5Lab.

The Singapore-based accelerator will aim to provide startups with

mentorship, access to investors and industry-grade test beds, and global co-marketing opportunities to fast-track their development into future partners of Huawei.

According to a Huawei spokesman, the i5Lab hopes to support the development of Singapore's next unicorn company by nurturing promising startups with Huawei's network environment and open platform as well as its global go-to-market channel capability.

"Focused on developing a viable IoT ecosystem for a smarter future, the i5Lab will follow the model of established Huawei collaborations with leading software and industry partners to develop solutions that will build a competitive industry ecosystem," the spokesman added.

Huawei Southern Pacific's chief marketing officer Lim Chee Siong said Singapore is an excellent test bed to nurture IoT ideas. "We hope that startups will make full use of this collaborative platform and leverage accumulated knowledge of industry-leading technology and expertise from Huawei and our global partners."

Startups will be able to verify their solutions in an actual network environment and leverage Huawei's in-house expertise in the development of their products and go-to-market strategy, Mr Lim said.

He noted that as a leading ICT (infocomm technology) player with presence in 170 countries, Huawei works with 45 of the world's top 50 telecommunications providers that "provides connection to two-thirds of the world's population".

"Startups will be able to scale up through Huawei's global partnerships with leading enterprises in verticals and operators across all continents.

They will also be invited to participate in joint marketing through Huawei's Customer Solution Innovation & Integration Experience Centre, and large-scale events such as NUS Enterprise's flagship event InnovFest unbound and CommunicAsia," he added.

Wong Poh Kam, director of NUS Entrepreneurship Centre, which is part of NUS Enterprise, said: "We are delighted to partner industry-leader Huawei for the i5Lab, to further assist the Singapore entrepreneurial community in bringing their innovations to global markets."

Prof Wong added that in tandem

with Singapore's Smart Nation initiative, the i5Lab will "provide the support, test-bed capabilities and networks to enable tech entrepreneurs to capitalise on new opportunities arising in the IoT space".

He said this is the "perfect time" to capitalise on the growing global IoT market space.

"Ultimately we are looking to build our future business partners from the ground up," Huawei's Mr Lim added.

According to a McKinsey report in 2015, the future of economic impact of IoT market stands at US\$11.1 trillion. It is estimated that more than 100 billion devices will come live by 2025.