


India's first Centre of Excellence for drone development to come up at IIT-Hyderabad



HYDERABAD: In a first, a Centre of Excellence for unmanned aerial solutions (drones) will be established at the Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad (IIT-H) as part of a tripartite agreement signed between a Japan-based firm and the institute.



TRIPARTITE MoU SIGNED

- Agreement was signed between IIT-H, Terra Drone Corporation and its associate company Terra Drone India earlier this month
- Japan-based Terra Drone Corporation has presence in six continents and more than 20 countries

The firm is one of the world's largest providers of industrial drone solutions

- It is at the forefront of several innovations in aviation industry, including promoting the application of AI technologies in drones and providing advisory services to ongoing 'flying car' project in Japan

The agreement was signed between the IIT-H, Terra Drone Corporation and its associate company Terra Drone India earlier this month when the institute director Prof UB Desai visited Tokyo. The associate company of the Japan-based firm offers a complete sales-

service-support module for the drone ecosystem in India and is actively working to implement unmanned traffic management (UTM) for drones for various government departments.

Since the IIT-H is the first academic institution to offer professional learning programmes in artificial intelligence and emerging technologies, the three parties will co-establish a Centre of Excellence for unmanned aerial solutions at the IIT campus, which will focus on developing autonomous aerial vehicles in India. The alliance will also facilitate collaborative teaching, training and research activities for up-skilling young professionals in the country.

“We are creating a unique educational ecosystem that combines interactive learning with cutting-edge research, strong industry collaboration and entrepreneurship. This pact with Terra Drone Corporation and Terra Drone India is a step in that direction wherein we will develop drone-based solutions for domains like 5G communication, agriculture, transportation and AI,” said Desai.

Terra Drone will support IIT Hyderabad in organising workshops, seminars, lectures and joint projects that will leverage cutting- edge unmanned technologies and drone LiDAR systems. As one of the key players in the Indian drone industry, Terra Drone India will also offer internship programmes to IIT-H students and prepare them for real-world technology applications.

“Terra Drone India wants to democratise this technology by giving young talent first-hand exposure to drones and preparing them for exciting careers in the UAV industry,” said Prateek Srivastava, chief executive officer, Terra Drone India.

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