

**NMICPS TiHAN Foundation, IIT Hyderabad and Advanced Technology R&D Center, MELCO signed an MoU for collaboration in the area of Autonomous Navigation**

**Highlights:**

1. *MoU signed between TiHAN, IITH and Advanced Technology R&D Center, Mitsubishi Electric for collaboration in R&D on the verticals of autonomous navigation*
2. *Joint offering for collaboration with industry to work in autonomous navigation, utilising the technical expertise and infrastructure*
3. *Training and capacity-building programs*
4. *Startup programs and design challenges, including challenges for problem statements by the industry and the ministry*

**Hyderabad, Jun 19, 2025:** A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the DST NMICPS Technology Innovation Hub on Autonomous Navigation (TiHAN), IIT Hyderabad (IITH) and Advanced Technology R & D Center (ATC), Mitsubishi Electric Corporation (MELCO) for collaboration in research and development in the emerging field of autonomous navigation. By combining the organisation's strengths and capabilities, this partnership will support the innovation ecosystem, skill development, and entrepreneurship activities in the field of autonomous navigation systems. TiHAN-IITH and ATC-MELCO will collaborate to pool their technical expertise, infrastructure, expertise, and experience in the field of technological advancements.

*“MoU signing between TiHAN-IITH and ATC-MELCO is a wonderful moment which has initiated a long-standing partnership between the organisations. The motto of IITH is Inventing and Innovating in Technology for Humanity, and TiHAN, which has been established with the vision of supporting activities related to Autonomous Navigation, is a feather in the cap of IITH. TiHAN Testbed is a state-of-the-art facility and the first of its kind in the nation for testing and validating different use cases of autonomous vehicles. Our association with MELCO will be a game-changer and will help both TiHAN and MELCO grow significantly together and for the nation”, said Prof B S Murty, Director, IITH.*

*“The area of focus of TiHAN is a very important subject for the drone and automotive industry currently. Autonomous vehicles are being talked about globally, and levels of autonomy are being implemented in Indian vehicles as well. However, there is a void in creating an ecosystem for research and development to deliver services for innovation with industry-academia collaboration, etc. MELCO is already in a plan developing an Incubation center where the space and services will be provided to establish an ecosystem of academia and industry startups. We are pleased to enter this collaborative relationship with TiHAN, combining our expertise and technological strengths to contribute to the future of society. This collaboration marks a significant step towards realizing safer and more efficient social systems through joint research and practical demonstrations. Though this is a small step, with determination and collaboration, this association can lead to significant advancements beneficial to both industry and academia.”, said Mr. Nobutoshi Todoroki, General Manager, ATC-MELCO.*

**Explaining TiHAN- IITH efforts in Autonomous Navigation, Prof P Rajalakshmi, Project Director, TiHAN-IITH, said, “TiHAN, IITH is working towards the vision of being the destination of next-generation mobility solutions providing a collaborative research platform for industry, R&D labs and academia at both national and international levels. We look forward to timely and relevant collaborations and joint research initiatives with MELCO.”**

**Speaking about MELCO and future collaborations with TiHAN, Mr. Nobutoshi Todoroki also mentioned, “Autonomous navigation is going to have widespread applications across the domains where MELCO and TiHAN can synergize and collaborate. MELCO being a major industry player which can facilitate necessary interventions so that the products developed are not only market-ready but can also ensure international quality standards and reduce reiteration of work. Future collaborative works between MELCO and TiHAN include researches, project based problem statements support, Industry support through certification courses and employment.”**

A signing ceremony was held in the esteemed presence of representatives from Mitsubishi Electric Corporation (MELCO), TiHAN – Technology Innovation Hub on Autonomous Navigation at IITH, Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) marking a significant milestone in collaborative innovation and research.

### **About TiHAN, IITH**

Department of Science and Technology (DST), under National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS), has sanctioned the prestigious Technology Innovation Hub (TIH) in the technology vertical of Autonomous Navigation and Data Acquisition Systems (UAVs, ROVs, etc.). Technology Innovation Hub on Autonomous Navigation (TiHAN) at IITH is a multi-departmental initiative, including researchers from Electrical Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Civil Engineering, Mathematics, Design, and Entrepreneurship at IITH, with collaboration and support from reputed institutions and industry. As part of the project, we are setting up a first of its kind integrated testbed on Autonomous Navigations (Aerial/Terrestrial) on the IITH campus, which has state of the art facilities such as Proving Grounds, Test tracks, Mechanical integration facilities like Hangers, Ground control stations, State of the art Simulation tools (SIL, MIL, HIL, VIL), Test tracks/circuits, Road Infra – Smart Poles, signalized & unsignalized Intersections, Environment Emulators like Rainfall Simulators, V2X Communications, Landing area, Control Test center. TiHAN-IITH is envisaged as the destination for collaborative research for next-generation mobility solutions between academia, industry, and R&D Labs, both national and international.

**To know more, please visit: <https://www.tihan.iith.ac.in/>**

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### **About Mitsubishi Electric Corporation**

With more than 100 years of experience in providing reliable, high-quality products, Mitsubishi Electric Corporation (TOKYO: 6503) is a recognized world leader in the manufacture, marketing and sales of electrical and electronic equipment used in information processing and communications, space development and satellite communications, consumer electronics, industrial technology, energy, transportation and building equipment. Mitsubishi Electric enriches society with technology in the spirit of its “Changes for the Better”. The company recorded a revenue of 5,521.7 billion yen (U.S.\$ 36.8 billion\*) in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2025.

**For more information, please visit:** <https://www.mitsubishielectric.com>

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### **About IIT Hyderabad**

Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IITH) established in 2008, has reached a respectable position in Academics, Research, Technology development and Startups in a short span of 16 years. In the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), IITH has bagged at 3<sup>rd</sup> in Innovation and 8<sup>th</sup> among Engineering institutes in the last two consecutive years, while it has maintained its rank within top 10 Engineering Institutes ever since NIRF was launched. IITH has been striving for excellence with a motto of "Inventing & Innovating in Technology for Humanity (IITH)".

With 325+ full-time Faculty and 5,200+ Students (PG+PhD students accounting for about 60%), IITH has a strong research focus with ~ 4630+ Projects worth of Rs. 1510+ Cr of R&D funding (Rs. 335+ Cr funding in 2024-25), 11,800+ Publications, 2,17,000+ Citations, 530+ Patents (210+ Patents in 2024 and a commitment to “Patent a Day: Mission 365” for 2025 to earn 365 Patents by the end of 2025), and about 260+ Startups (that have generated 1100+ jobs with a revenue of Rs. 1500+ Cr).

To know more, please visit: <https://www.iith.ac.in/>

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