

27th November 2002, Trivandrum

- **Rational finalises unique agreement with Kerala Government to**
 - **Bring software engineering best practices into eGovernance initiatives**
 - **Help build talent pool in Kerala trained in software engineering**

 - **Technopark Software Engineering Competency Center (TSECC) inaugurated at Trivandrum**

 - **First Initiative of it's kind in the country, aimed at promoting Software Engineering as a Best Practice across industry, Government, and academia**
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The Technopark Software Engineering Competency Center (TSECC), set up with support and endorsement of Rational Software Corporation at the Technopark premises at Trivandrum, was inaugurated today by Mr. P.K.Kunhalikutty, Hon. Minister for IT and Industries, Govt. of Kerala at a function presided over by Mr.Greg Lund, Managing Director, South Asia & India, Rational Software Corporation.

Earlier, Rational India and the Government of Kerala finalised a first of its kind agreement wherein Rational would assist the Government define processes and provide a framework for unifying discrete eGovernance projects, for essential success of these projects. The agreement was finalised by Mr.M.K. Bharatee, Country Manager, Rational India, and Ms. Aruna Sundararajan, Secretary-IT, Government of Kerala. Two concrete steps in this regard from Rational are:

- (i). Holding high level workshops for policy makers and implementers of eGovernance projects, and

- (ii). Provide technical support and other necessary resources for a pilot project of the Government's choice as a proof of concept.

Further, the agreement envisages Rational facilitating colleges to adopt software engineering as a part of their curriculum so as to build a substantial pool of trained software engineering professionals in the State of Kerala.

Inaugurating the TSECC center, **Mr.P.K.Kunhalikutty** said: "Kerala is making a resurgent bid to become a favoured IT investment destination. We thank Rational Software for their support whereby Kerala may acquire a differential advantage across IT based initiatives in government, industry, and academia".

TSECC was dedicated to the State of Kerala by **Mr.Greg Lund, Managing Director – South Asia and India**, Rational Software. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Greg Lund said

“We are happy to be associated with the Kerala Government on the TSECC initiative which is one of its kind in the world and are excited about the opportunities this would open up for the State of Kerala. After working on similar initiatives with the Singapore and Malaysian Governments in the Asia Pacific region, the agreement with the Kerala Government represents a first in India”.

“The TSECC initiative represents a long term-commitment by Rational Software to help ensure the adoption of software-engineering best practices by the software community in Kerala” said Mr. **M. K. Bharatee, Country Manager, Rational Software, India.**

Mr. Ajith Nambissan, President, GTech (Group of Technopark Companies) added: “GTECH welcomes the setting up of the Technopark Software Engineering Competency Center at Technopark. We appreciate the feat that Technopark has achieved by establishing such a competency center. This center would enable the existing as well as the new IT companies in the State to improve the quality of their offerings and upgrade the technology skills of its manpower. It also would provide software engineers in the State an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the latest development tools/practices free of cost, at their doorstep. Initiatives such as these shall have a positive impact on the State’s IT Industry. We reiterate our wholehearted appreciation and support to Technopark’s initiative”.

The TSECC shall be managed by M/s Astra Infotech Pvt. Ltd. **Mr. Vipin Kumar, Managing Director**, said: “Astra is honoured to be the binding force between Rational Software and Technopark. Rational shall henceforth be accessible at Kerala’s doorstep through Astra. We are excited about our key role in transforming Kerala’s IT landscape”.

About Technopark:

Technopark, Trivandrum is India’s first technology park and among the two largest IT parks in the country today. Technopark is an autonomous society promoted by the Government of Kerala. Spread over 156 acres, and about 1.5 m. sq.ft, it hosts over 55 IT and ITES companies, including 4 CMM Level 5, 2 CMM Level 3 and several ISO 9000 certified companies. Technopark is the IT hub of the State of Kerala, and based in Trivandrum which can rightfully claim to be the knowledge capital of the region. Technopark provides world class, robust and failsafe infrastructure, meeting global standards to IT companies. More importantly, Technopark’s vision is to provide a holistic enabling environment to make knowledge industry intrinsically competitive and world class.

About Rational Software Corporation

Rational Software provides a software development platform that improves the speed, quality, and predictability of software projects. This integrated, full lifecycle solution combines software engineering best practices, market-leading tools, and professional services. Ninety-eight of the Fortune 100 rely on Rational tools and services to build better software, faster. This open platform is extended by partners who provide more than 500 complementary products and services. Founded in 1981, Rational is one of the world's largest software companies, with revenues of \$666.4 million in its twelve months

ended June 30, 2002, and over 3,500 employees worldwide. Rational is a member of the S&P 500 Index and a component of the Nasdaq-100 Index®. Additional information is available at www.rational.com and www.therationaledge.com, the monthly e-zine for the Rational community.

About Rational's SEED Program:

Rational's SEED Program (Software Engineering for Educational Development) has been an enduring effort to increase awareness of Rational Best Practices and products at educational institutions throughout the world. The aim is to generate awareness and thereby create a pool of talented professionals the world over who are exposed to Rational solutions who would have a strong foundation of Software Engineering Best Practices while imbibing in them a Team Spirit as Software Development is a Team Sport and the success of the Development is how well the team collaborates.

About Astra Infotech Private Limited

Astra Infotech is a software development company with more than 8 years of industry presence. Astra Infotech is an Authorized Channel Partner for Rational Software in Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. Astra has developed a range of products spanning different verticals like Health Care, Manufacturing and Workflow Automation. Astra has a core team of highly qualified experts in software engineering with an accumulated 65 man years of experience. Astra Infotech uniquely complements the comprehensive resource library of Rational Software with expertise and knowledge capital in software engineering.

About Technopark Software Engineering Competency Center (TSECC):

TSECC was set up through an MOU between Rational's Authorized Channel Partner, M/s Astra Infotech Pvt. Ltd. and Technopark, Trivandrum, India's first technology park, promoted by Govt. of Kerala.

Under the terms of the MOU, Technopark has provided the necessary space and facilities in the Technopark campus for setting up the TSECC. Rational Software will provide the entire library of Rational tools, solution samples, product demos, white papers and other necessary collateral. Astra InfoTech would have at the center Rational certified professionals at the TSECC who will hand hold and provide guidance to visitors coming to the center, and as such shall be responsible for the operation of the center and for ensuring customer satisfaction.

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