**January 22-29, 2015**

**Venture Startup Workshop**

Time: Thursday-Friday, January 22-23, 2015, Monday-Thursday, January 26-29, 2015, 10 am to 1 pm.

Place*:*Tomsk State University (room TBD)

**Workshop Description**

This is an intensive course targeted at those interested in learning more about entrepreneurship and start-ups. The workshop will take the setting of a venture capital competition. This involves one round of problem pitching and product ideation, two rounds of development, each followed by a presentation of the work. The top teams will be voted on after each round, and prizes will go to the top team of the final presentation.

There will be daily lectures on topics ranging from how to plan a business and how to make an effective presentations to entrepreneurship culture in the U.S. vs. Russia, and workshops on programming, Arduino building, computational biology workshop (if there is interest).

MIT students with experience in business, entrepreneurship, and a wide variety of technical skills will lead the workshop. The students will be divided into teams, which will have several cutting edge project ideas to choose from, such as the following:

**Device oriented:** With the growth of payment systems, such as Paypal, Square, and Venmo, there is also developing interest in streamlining the payment process. Imagine if you could walk into a restaurant, order food, eat and then simply leave. Develop an app for this using Near Field Communications (NFC) technology, preferably with an accompanied app.

**Informatics oriented**: Biometrics is currently a huge field of development. Some mainstream technologies include fingerprint, face recognition, retina scanning, and, more recently, dorsal hand vein. However, these require complex technology, which is often not readily available. Can you design a way to develop an identification system based on voice, which would be robust to subtle changes of conditions?

**Medicine related**: Clinicians are fighting the current Ebola outbreak in West Africa. They are encumbered by hot and obstructive Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Furthermore, a lack of a reliable network thwarts effective collaboration across clinics. Can you re-design current medical PPE's to be easier to use/move in? Could you design infrastructure, which would be applicable to the low-resource environment of Africa?

**Mobile App Oriented**: Friends can often be at the same event, or even the same room, without noticing! Imagine an app which would work indoors or outdoors (using a combination of GPS and WiFi), and alert the user through vibration when one of their friends is closeby. Pay extra attention to user-privacy, both in terms of UI settings as well as on the server-side.

MIT student-instructors will prepare a selection of start-up packages to aid rapid product development and prototyping, and the instructors will be on hand to mentor and advise groups. Students are encouraged to work on off-hours and weekends to create a polished product in the short time available. The goal will be to develop a Minimally Viable Product (MVP) for the groups to take into intellectual property market for patent, and eventually think about developing a start-up.

**Pre-requisites**

All those with interest in creating startups are welcome, but those with skills for prototyping technology (Electrical Engineering, Computer Science, Business, Entrepreneurship,) should be given preference. The knowledge of the English language knowledge is a must.

**Workload**

18 hours total

**Space needs**

Preferably a large, spacious room.

**Workshop Capacity**

20-25 undergraduate students

**More information**

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Tomsk State University: