

IIT Kanpur Grants Funds to Varanasi-Based Start-up

Kanpur, U.P.: IIT Kanpur has granted a seed funding of Rs 20 Lakh to a cost and energy efficient water purifier start-up called Aquvio (iMinbit Technologies Pvt. Ltd.), based in Varanasi.

Founded by Naveen Kumar and Rohit Kumar Mittal, Aquvio's water filters significantly reduce the amount of water wasted as compared to modern RO water systems. In the current water purifiers available in the market, 70% of the water is drained, which in the current scenario of water crisis in our country, is a huge amount of wastage. In Aquvio's Cost and Energy saving Reverse Osmosis-based water purifier, only 30% of the water is rejected and 70% is available for drinking purposes. Thus Aquvio water purifiers also use consume less power.

The fact that Aquvio purifiers are cost and energy efficient as well as helping in water conservation is what aligns the start-up with the aim of the INVENT program, under which **SIIC (SIDBI Innovation and Incubation Centre)** has funded the company.

"We are excited to welcome Aquvio into IIT Kanpur's social incubation program which has seen rapid growth over last 6 months. With a majority of India's cities and towns reeling from water shortages, Aquvio's water-saving RO technology not only reduces water wastage but also provides sustainable potable water to underprivileged communities," said Dr. Sameer Khandekar, Associate Dean, Innovation and Incubation, IIT Kanpur.

Aquvio has two water purifiers that can filter huge quantities of water (100 litres per hour and 50 litres per hour) and that are fit for usage in corporate offices or schools/colleges. Currently the Aquvio purifier is installed in a number of educational institutions across Varanasi.

Aquvio has been recognised by **Startup India Standup India**, a government of India initiative. Since 2016, the company has saved over 1 Crore litres of water and provided clean and safe drinking water to over 50,000 people per day.

INVENT is a collaboration between the Technology Development Board, Government of India and the Department for International Development, Government of the United Kingdom.

As of June 30, IIT Kanpur has the highest number of incubation applications approved among three other INVENT incubators in the country. The institute's INVENT program has been operational since August 2016 and has so far funded 9 social enterprises.