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IIM-K's contest is now open to professionals

Special Correspondent

'White Knight' will be held as part of its annual international management fete 'Backwaters.'

Kozhikode: 'White Knight', a national-level entrepreneurship competition that will be held as part of the annual international management festival —'Backwaters'— organised by the Indian Institute of Management-Kozhikode (IIM-K), has been thrown open to professionals apart from students.

"The competition aims to put into action the institute's vision of shifting the B-school from a path of exclusive elitism to inclusive excellence. This event will provide a platform to enterprising and ambitious persons with ideas for profitable and scalable businesses to make their dreams a reality," said Debashis Chatterjee, Director, IIM-K, during the launch of the event on Wednesday.

This year, White Knight has been launched on a bigger scale, according to the organisers of the event.

India Innovation Network was acting as the advisor and mentor for the event while TiE Kerala was the Knowledge Partner, they said.

The competition would invite ideas not only from B-School students but also from working professionals.

Special prize

In line with the institute's vision of creating socially sensitive managers attuned to the welfare of emerging India, White Knight had a special prize in the category 'Best Social Venture'.

Prizes would also be given to categories like IT products, women entrepreneurs and biotech, subject to the quality of the business plans submitted under these categories.

Last date

Entries would be accepted till September 25 and evaluated by a panel of leading venture capitalists, industry leaders, and IIM-K faculty. The event has Rs.50 million of total seed funding, making it the biggest entrepreneurship challenge in India, according to the organisers.

The winner in the last edition of White Knight took home Rs.1 lakh and the White Knight rolling trophy, given by TiE Kerala.

The winning team was SPJIMR for their business plan 'eSamuhanam —enhancing rural employability'.

Details of the event are available on website www.iimkbackwaters.com/whiteknight.

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