

Cambridge to conduct ACTIV workshops

fe Bureau

Pune, Sep 25: Cambridge, Europe's premier high technology cluster with an impressive track record of building successful technology-based businesses from the University of Cambridge and other local research organisations, is keen to share its expertise with Indian scientific talents.

Cambridge is bringing to India the first of a series of UK-India ACTIV (accelerated commercialisation of technology and innovation) workshops targeting at young technology innovators in India that are meant to help scientists understand the processes involved in commercialising technology

This is the first time Cambridge is attempting an effort of this kind in India.

These workshops which will be held in Pune from September 27 to October 1 at the Venture Centre of the National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) will seek to transfer to India, the experience and lessons learnt in science based entrepreneurship at Cambridge, UK, Shailendra Vyakarnam, director, Cambridge Judge Business School, Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning, said.

The objective is to develop a new generation of Indian technology entrepreneurs and innovators, he said. The Cambridge Judge Business School has helped create over 140 plus

business ventures and has completed over 165 programmes.

"There is a pent up demand in the market for guidance of this nature and the government policies have also become a lot more friendlier. However, the critical mass of expertise is missing and a nascent community of technology managers is coming up for which capability needs to be built," he explained.

The ACTIV workshops will be administered by experts from AcceleratorIndia, which is headquartered at Cambridge and from the Venture Centre, NCL, Pune. The workshops are meant for technology business incubator personnel, scientists and researchers

from public sector laboratories and research institutions, Uday Phadke, director, AcceleratorIndia, said.

AcceleratorIndia helps bring high tech global businesses to India. The workshops are funded by the National Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Board, department of science and technology, ministry of science & technology UK Science and Innovation Network, British High Commission and other supporters. Of the 130 applicants, around 60 odd researchers and institutions have been selected to take part in these workshops.

There are plans to build an online community of scien-

tists and take this forward to create a generation of entrepreneurs and innovators, help them forge linkages with

other relevant networks and help bring their ideas to the market, V Premnath, director, Venture Centre, NCL, said.