Research at CREATE Receives 2 Awards at TechConnect World Innovation Conference

15th June 2015: The TechConnect World Innovation Conference is an annual event aimed at innovation translation. It is organised by TechConnect, a global technology outreach and development organization that vets the global promising technologies and presents them to corporate and public-sector developers from around the world. In particular, the TechConnect Innovation Awards identify the top 20% of early-stage innovations and technologies that are presented at the TechConnect National Innovation Summit (as part of the World Innovation Conference) through an industry-review process. These rankings are based on the potential positive impact the submitted technology will have on a specific industry sector.

The TechConnect Innovation awards have been presented to 2 CREATE teams in 2015. The Energy and Environmental Sustainability Solutions for Megacities (E2S2) programme, which consists of researchers from NUS and Shanghai Jiaotong University. They have developed a low-cost sensor that can be deployed to lakes and rivers to detect trace levels of phosphates, a principal component of nutrients and the leading contributor to algae blooms. The E2S2 sensor involves the use of software and light-emitting diodes (LEDs) to assess phosphate concentrations *in situ*, which its cost-effective and rapid assessment allows for a quick response to pollution incidents. This project is currently at the prototype stage (TRL3), and has received a additional proof-of-concept grant from the NRF.

Another TechConnect Innovation Award is presented to the NEW programme, where researchers from NTU, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Ben Gurion University of the Negev have developed Smart glass technologies with thermochromic properties. This means that the glass can become clear or opaque based on the ambient temperature. Also, the clever use of materials such as the application of hydrogels allows the Smart glass to be shatter-resistant and reduces the transfer of heat to the indoor environment. Furthermore, the NEW team has developed electrochromic coatings for windows that are inkjet-printable and can be consistently produced at a low cost. This project is currently at the stage of proven manufacturability (TRL7).

Visitors to TechConnect 2015 can check out the CREATE technologies on displays at booths #27M and #626 between 14-17th June at Washington DC. To know more about the technological capabilities of NEW and E2S2, please visit the CREATE website for more information. The E2S2 and NEW research programmes are funded by the National Research Foundation Singapore under its Campus for Research Excellence and Technological Enterprise (CREATE) programme.

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