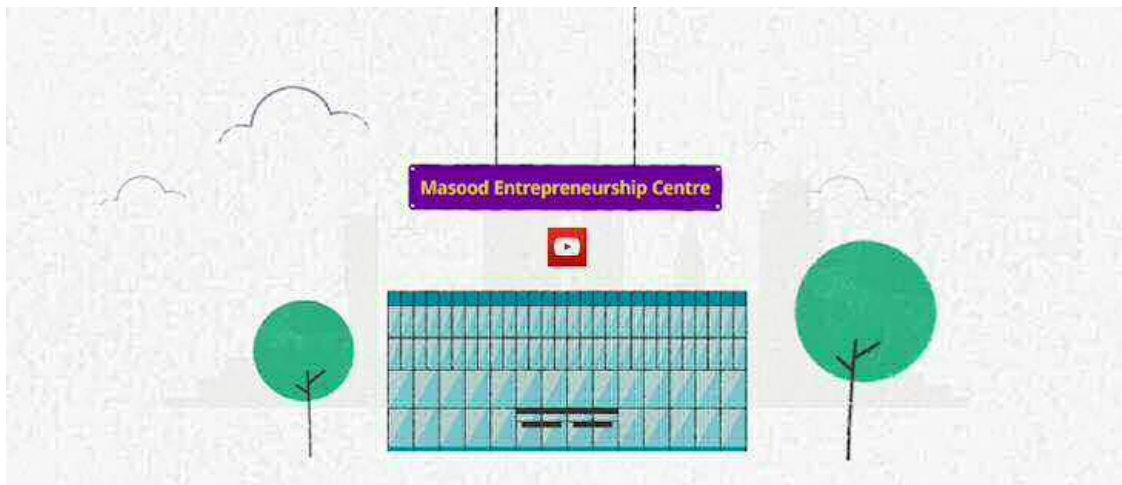

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Masood
Entrepreneurship
Centre

MEC Update

Issue 2 | 15 February 2021



Welcome to the latest [Masood Entrepreneurship Centre](#) newsletter...

MEC News

TiE appoints MEC's Tony Walker as new President

TiE (The Indus Entrepreneurs) UK North has appointed Tony Walker, Deputy Director of the Masood Entrepreneurship Centre, as its new President, replacing the outgoing Vikas Shah MBE. Established for almost a decade TiE UK North each year works with hundreds of businesses and some of the most influential CEOs and founders across the North of England.



[Hear from Tony](#)

[Keep up-to-date with the latest MEC news here](#)

Spotlight on



A showcase of social enterprise talent.

Three new social enterprise ventures that had recently participated in the Aspect Student Accelerator Programme (ASAP), supported by the Masood Entrepreneurship Centre, featured in a national showcase event.

ASAP brought together a community of like-minded student and alumni entrepreneurs who are seeking to create scalable socially impactful businesses. All participants are contributing to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, through the socially-responsible running and output of their businesses. Nineteen teams – three of which were from The University of Manchester - participated in the pilot programme, which launched

in September 2020. The accelerator ended with a Demo Day on Wednesday, 27 January 2021 where our entrepreneurs pitched their business proposals to potential investors. The three University of Manchester start-ups were:

Arkisites

Developed by University of Manchester alumni Elijah Ajuwon

Arkisites is dedicated to bridging the access gap between minority ethnic groups, young people and the technology sector. In an increasingly technology-centric world, Arkisites is working to create opportunities for young people to develop confidence and learn the skills they need for future employment in the digital tech sector.

Open Source Policy

Co-founded by UoM alumni Genevieve Ryan

Open Source Policy helps people achieve change in the healthcare system, keeping patients safer and reducing inequality while saving time and money for the NHS. It understands people's experiences to develop proposals for change, testing ideas through pilots run in partnership with healthcare providers, before offering policymakers evidence-backed recommendations.

Tatu Nurse

Developed by UoM alumni and Venture Further 2020 winner, Samuel Mugisha

Tatu Nurse is a social enterprise that empowers nurses to be more productive. Many countries face a critical shortage of nurses. As a result, the quality of bedside monitoring is inadequate; patients deteriorate or even die. Tatu Nurse provides the essential technologies to better manage patients and improve efficiency in healthcare for developing countries.

Elijah Ajuwon commented on his experience of participating in the programme: *"Before being accepted onto the inaugural cohort of Aspect Accelerator, arkisites had already graduated from an accelerator programme where we were the only social enterprise. Aspect Accelerator's focus on driving social change through entrepreneurship meant that myself and the team were*



surrounded by socially responsible founders. Whilst on the accelerator we have created a sustainable business model, gained traction and increased the size of the community that we are serving. I personally have built meaningful and impactful relationships with other founders in the cohort. The lessons learnt and relationships built has been and will integral to the development of arkisites.”

[Read more](#)



Manchester Start-up, Vector Homes secures double award from the Masood Entrepreneurship Centre

The Vector Homes team is made up of a mix of University of Manchester alumni, current staff and external expertise.

This gave them the opportunity to apply for and secure both a Nick Sanders Kickstarter Award and a Flying Starter Award from the Masood Entrepreneurship Centre, the focal point for enterprise and entrepreneurship at the University of Manchester. These awards are aimed at helping entrepreneurs to explore and validate early stage start-up business ideas. Vector Homes' goal is to deliver sustainable, modular and affordable smart homes for everyone and these awards will give the team an opportunity to continue market validation and ensure product market fit.

We look forward supporting the team further as they develop the proposition for the market.

If you are a current student, member of staff or recent graduate with an idea for a start-up business get in touch with the Masood Entrepreneurship Centre today and find out more about how we can support you on your entrepreneurial journey..

[Find out more](#)

Competitions, awards and events

Inspiring Entrepreneurs Series

Our [Venture Further](#) competition is open and it promises to be yet another phenomenal year for ideas. For the second year running, [Vita Student](#) are sponsoring this inspiring and innovative competition.

Vita have brought us the '[Inspiring Entrepreneurs Series](#)' to give the students of Manchester a boost as they work hard on their ideas. This 5-part series offers inspirational talks, start-up tips, career journeys and support, along with career advice from industry leaders, founders and influencers.

We want our students to be inspired, motivated, to grab every opportunity and to push further. Find out more about the [Inspiring Entrepreneurs Series](#), brought to you by [Vita Student](#).

[Watch the talks](#)

Venture Further business start-up competition....closing soon !

Your annual student business start-up competition is still open for entries for just over one more week.

This is your unique opportunity to turn your ideas into reality and win significant early-stage funding to start your own business. The [Venture Further](#) competition will introduce you to a world of support programmes, workshops,

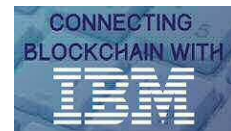


mentors and networks to grow your ideas. If you have a viable business proposal then get involved. [Register your interest](#) today and get involved with the support sessions that will help shape your business proposals ahead of the deadline.

Deadline for entries: Thursday, 25 February.

[Read more](#)

Connecting Blockchain with IBM !



Seen the cryptocurrency hype lately? Still confused? Join the [Blockchainers Student Society](#) this Friday for an event featuring Rémy Mandon, Vice President of IBM France, to discuss the latest developments and use cases in the Blockchain Industry!

Friday 19 February 19 2021

5:15 PM – 6:15 PM GMT

[Register](#)



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