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IIT-M start-up gets $1 M order from Singapore firm

09 August 2017 | News

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A start-up born at the IIT-Madras Incubation Cell has bagged a million dollar order from a Singapore-based company to transfer technology used by its first two products. The key focus of the technologies is clinical training using virtual patients so that actual treatment becomes safer.

The two products — "Laparoscopy Surgical Simulator with Haptics Feedback" and "In vitro FertilisationTraining Simulation with Haptics Feedback" — are expected to change the way doctors are trained to make the patient safer.

While high-end simulators with haptics feedback cost around Rs 2 crore in the international market, these new technologies integrating virtual reality with haptics (interaction involving the sense of touch), home-grown in IIT-Madras' Touch Lab, will cost just about Rs 30-35 lakhs.

The start-up Merkel Haptics was formed in 2011 to convert lab work into products, and Touch Lab at the Applied Mechanics Department of IIT Madras was founded to research the sense of touch.