

# Good response to first technopreneurship business plan competition

The \$12,000 prize money for the best business tech plan must have been quite a lure, but the fervent response probably had more to do with the lively culture of innovation on our campus. Many students were just eager to develop and test their business ideas and plans to see if they could cut it in the real world.

Eventually, some 348 of them representing 54 teams from the various NTU Schools participated in the first Technopreneurship (Business Plan) Competition organised by the Nanyang Technopreneurship Center as part of the University's 20th anniversary celebrations. This number was whittled down to just eight finalists, who presented their business plans and products to a panel of five judges on 19 July 2001. All entries were judged

on innovation, commercial viability, marketability, technical



*Make or break: students making their case to a panel of judges*



soundness and quality of presentation. The inventors of Blue Solutions from the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering eventually picked up the top prize.

*New business in the making? (Left to right) Teo Boon Ping and Koh Kar Seng, members of the winning team, demonstrating Blue Solutions' products and services*

## Alumnus invents HP Wire

**John Gomes from the Class of 2000 is a live wire in computing**

Recently hailed as a "Wireless Wonderboy" by *Asiaweek* magazine, John Gomes has invented the world's first e-service technology that bridges the gap between always-on infrastructure, e-services and appliances.

Called HP Wire, his invention harnesses the Internet to allow users of mobile devices such as mobile phones and personal digital assistants (PDAs) to securely access and send information between appliances like printers or fax machines.

Using a PDA, for example, a user can print locally a document stored on a distant computer by sending instructions from one device to the other.

John graduated from the School of Computer Engineering in 2000 and joined Hewlett-Packard (HP) in January 2001. Three months later, he proposed the concept of HP Wire to senior management. By May, he had a prototype in his hands. HP Wire was commercially launched on 27 September.

The 24-year-old scholar from India, who hopes to be "a CTO of some sort", is currently working on future versions of HP Wire and HP CoolTown technologies. "CoolTown is HP's vision for pervasive computing. We envision that computers will be omnipresent. They will be in most devices around you and these intelligent devices and services will work together to make our lives better."



*Computer virtuoso: John's invention enables mobile devices to talk to desktop printers and fax machines*

## Pilot new services and more

The Centre, hosted by EEE at NTU's Innovation Centre, provides:

- ASP incubation services to develop innovative ASP services locally and regionally
- Business and technical consultancy
- Consulting and auditing for the SunTone Service Level Certification Programme
- Resources for research
- Scholarships for students to develop skilled manpower for ASPs

Chong Wah and Assoc Prof Hinny Kong. It has 15 full-time employees and plans to leverage on NTU academics and research associates to work on next-generation ASP technologies and business models. Prof Er Meng Hwa, NTU Deputy President and Dean, College of Engineering, is the Chairman of the Centre.