

STEC opens innovation centre for storage software in India

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Pune, Sep 5: STEC Inc., a \$350-million US-based company maker of solid-state drives (SSDs), will now begin to develop software for its SSDs. Until now, the company was only in the business of making hardware. This storage software will be developed out of the company's new storage technology innovation centre that will be located in Pune, announced Mark Moshayedi, president, COO & CTO, STEC. "This is the only centre that will develop software for the company," he said. The company's existing design centres at California, Taiwan and Malaysia work on SSD products.

"With 1.8 zeta bytes of data being created every year, there is a need to make data access quicker," he said. STEC India, a wholly-owned subsidiary of STEC, Inc. had earlier this year acquired certain assets of Knowledge Quest Infotech (KQI) Private Limited in Pune. KQI had been developing software storage solutions for the last three years. The financial terms of the transaction were not disclosed by the company officials. The KQI team including founder Anurag Agarwal, are now part of the STEC team at the innovation centre in Pune. This team would work on software solutions from early proof of concept to productisation for original equipment manufacturers (OEMs). "Some of the projects would be ready for shipment from the second quarter of the coming year," Agarwal, general manager of the centre, said.

"The world is now moving towards flash-based hard-disks. Flash-based hard-disks are 15 times more faster than the existing magnetic hard-disks. Although there continues to be a market for magnetic hard-disks, work on flash-based hard-disks has been on from 2006 and companies are now gradually realising the benefits of shifting towards this technology," Agarwal explained.

Flash memory, however, does not have the physical limitations of hard-drives and can keep pace with processors. "Several companies manufacture servers and our company helps enable these servers with SSDs, which means access to data becomes much quicker," he said. "The total storage related enterprise spend worldwide currently stands at \$28.7 billion and the server-related enterprise expenditure is about \$49 billion.