Letter of Recommendation

It is with great privilege that I write to you in recommendation of Mr. Kaushik Balasundar for a master's program at your prestigious university. I first met Kaushik in 2016 when he volunteered to facilitate the '*Girls Power Technology'* training program as a part of CISCO's CSR initiative. His passion for Robotics coupled with robust interdisciplinary fundamentals made me induct him into our company as a research intern. Since then, I have been Kaushik's direct supervisor. I found him to be a passionate and intelligent individual who is always on the pursuit of innovation and taking on new challenges. His penchant for technology, flair for teaching and practical know-how at such a young age has impressed me. Deep knowledge in Robotics and efficient means of deriving simple solutions to challenging problems has enabled him to be very successful in his role.

One of the early projects he was assigned was to develop a low-cost IoT integrated weather monitoring platform for our client *Discovery Kids ScienceAdda.* He developed efficient algorithms and robust code for the calibration, fusion and IoT integration of sensors used to measure various environmental parameters which were housed in a customized and ergonomic 3D printed enclosure that he designed. His excellent leadership qualities and strong interpersonal skills made it possible for us to successfully complete this project well before the delivery date. He represented our company and presented this product at *'IoT Next',* a premium International platform for building business in IoT, held in November 2017. He has also contributed to the training and certification programs conducted by our company. He was a core member of *'Project Smiles Through Science: Robotics Workshop',* held at CISCO, Bengaluru from September 2017 – March 2018 for high school and undergraduate students. He played a pivotal role in developing the course content, building robots used as workshop exhibits, testing new experiments, and teaching the students at these workshops as a lead trainer.

One of his best achievements so far is to improve upon the existing mechanical limit switch-based auto bed levelling system to an infra-red sensor-based method for our indigenous India's first 3D printer – Brahma3. He developed the mechanical assembly and control algorithms for the subunit which significantly improved its accuracy and repeatability. He was also instrumental in deploying Bramha3's upgrade to support IoT connectivity, funneling his experience from previous client projects to develop the necessary hardware and software. The 3D printer was launched at Techcrunch, Berlin and has received accolades from global technology media. His contribution to this project alone could make him one of our most valued and productive interns.

As a CSR initiative, CISCO, along with NASSCOM foundation, has launched the *thingQbator* project, a network of makerspaces in partner universities across India. Li2 Technologies is the knowledge partner for this program. Kaushik has designed and deployed comprehensive online courses such as 'Connected devices using NodeMCU', 'Development of IoT Applications', 'Machine learning and Image processing', 'Blockchain and Internet of Things', and 'CAD and 3D printing'. He constructed innovative and creative course experiments by integrating concepts from the various courses that he developed. They are currently delivered to 10000+ undergraduate students in premier institutes such as Indian Institute of Technology (BHU), Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management, Kerala and many others. By the end of 2019, it is estimated to reach 25000+ students. He has also contributed as a lead trainer in the workshops held at these partner universities and has trained 800+ students.

Although the company board has given him an open offer to join us as a full-time employee and excel in his career with us, it is his passion for technology and innovation that urged him to pursue further education, set higher standards and face stronger competition internationally. With this note I once again strongly recommend Mr. Kaushik Balasundar for admission to the graduate program at your university and wish him success in all his future endeavors.

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