



Meltwater Entrepreneurial School of Technology (MEST)

Training and mentoring future software entrepreneurs



Introduction

MEST is a not-for-profit NGO fully funded by Meltwater Group, a Norwegian software company headquartered in San Francisco, USA.

MEST was established in Accra, the capital of Ghana, in August 2007 with the purpose to train and mentor young Africans to become future software entrepreneurs in the global market space.

By contributing to the creation of successful African software companies, it is MEST's long term objective to create wealth and jobs locally in Africa.

MEST was founded on the belief that the most valuable resource in Africa is the vast potential of its people. It is Meltwater's hope that the companies hatched through the MEST training program will inspire a future, prosperous African technology industry.

An entrepreneurial training program in three phases



1. MEST

MEST is the first phase of Meltwater's three-phase entrepreneurial training program.

MEST is a two-year, full-time, paid traineeship in which participants are trained by world-class international trainers, each with 20 years of experience in commercial software development from the USA.

The MEST program provides rigorous entrepreneurial training, extensive hands-on project work, and mastery of industry-proven methodologies for software development.

The MEST program also includes a series of 16 guest lectures annually, in which internationally recognized executives, professors and entrepreneurs share their experiences and insights.





2. Incubation

The purpose of the Meltwater Incubator is to help MEST graduates validate their business ideas and to get their ideas off the ground.

Enrollment is based upon approved business plans. Participants will be awarded initial seed funding by Meltwater (for a minority equity stake) in addition to office space in the Meltwater Incubator.

The Meltwater Incubator has office space and infrastructure in three locations: Accra, London, and San Francisco. These are strategic locations, enabling easy access to the global markets.

3. Mentoring

Each company will be offered a set of international mentors, who will serve as board members or company advisors, in order to optimize the chances for international commercial breakthrough. Mentors will be recruited among world-class executives and successful entrepreneurs.

These mentors will have relevant experience from identified target markets.






Who is a MEST Trainee?

Every year, MEST Trainees are recruited from among the brightest and most driven university graduates in Ghana. They come from diverse academic backgrounds, including computer science, engineering, and the social sciences.

Prior training in the field of technology is not a requirement. However, MEST Trainees must have the following qualities:

- A desire to make a difference
- A strong interest in technology and entrepreneurship
- Demonstrated personal drive and self motivation
- Confidence and independent thinking
- Excellent people skills
- A keen interest in team work
- Ability to communicate candidly and persuasively
- Proven academic excellence



Our Motivation

Meltwater Group is a company that started out with a very humble beginning. With initial funding of only 15,000 USD and against all odds, Meltwater has become a global software company with 33 offices on five continents.

At the root of Meltwater's success is a fundamental belief in people and their potential. Once talented people get the right support, guidance, and encouragement, they can accomplish extraordinary things.

Meltwater is an organization consisting of compassionate people with an interest and commitment that goes far beyond mere commercial objectives and aspirations.

We set up this entrepreneurial training program because we believe we have something valuable to offer.

We believe that by passing on the skills and competencies that made us commercially successful, we can make a difference.



Trainers

MEST Trainers are carefully selected based on their track record in developing commercial software, and their keen interest and passion for coaching and transferring their expertise to others.

Trainers each have about 20 years of industry experience under their belts. Their backgrounds include careers with international consulting firms, innovative Silicon Valley start-ups, and some of the most admired software companies in the world.

They are compassionate and adventurous leaders, eager to make an impact in Ghana.



Teaching Fellows

MEST Teaching Fellows are engineering and computer science students recruited from top universities in the United States, Europe and Ghana.

MEST Fellows are characterized by strong management qualities and a keen, developed interest in people and teaching. They are student leaders who are driven, entrepreneurial and ambitious.

Teaching Fellows provide critical support, feedback, international perspectives, enthusiasm, and endless amounts of energy at MEST.



Partnerships

MEST values strong partnerships with the right organizations in order to support the training and development of young people and to encourage research, education, entrepreneurship and technology development through skills transfer and training. Our partners help us collaborate efforts and mutually benefit in this unprecedented project to develop Africa's future technology leaders.



Opening Ceremony

February 11th, 2008

The afternoon celebration was a collective gathering of influential supporters from the government, education, public and private space.



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