

Indian start-up among finalists in 'water from air' competition

XPRIZE is running the challenge that comes with an award of \$1.5 million

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An Indian start-up that has developed a technology to create water from air is among the five finalists in a prestigious global competition. The two-year competition is to create a device that extracts a minimum of 2,000 litres of water per day from air using 100% renewable energy.

Uravu, a Hyderabad-based company, will compete with four other companies in the final round of the Water Abundance XPRIZE. The five finalists were selected from 98 teams in the previous round, from 25 countries, and will share a \$250,000 milestone prize purse.

The finalists will begin a second round of testing in Ju-



Strength in unity: The Uravu team. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ly. During this phase, teams must fully demonstrate that their device meets the competition requirement.

Decentralised access

The team whose solution provides the greatest ability to create decentralised access to water will receive the

grand prize of \$1.5 million. Winners will be announced in August.

Los Angeles-based XPRIZE, which designs incentive competitions to solve humanity's big challenges, is running the water abundance prize with the support of the Tata Group

and Australian Aid. Uravu is run by a multidisciplinary team of five, with engineering, sciences, architecture and design backgrounds.

Socially relevant

The young team says it "believes in working on hard problems which are technologically achievable and also culturally and socially salient."

Led by Swapnil Shrivastav, Amit, Bharath, Sandeep and Venkatesh are other members of the group.

"The team is developing a completely off-grid water from air device, spinning together the magic of material sciences and solar thermal energy," a press release said. A scalable device of this nature could revolutionise access to fresh water.