

Outlook 2017: Five Singapore start-ups to watch



Cialfo co-founder and CEO Rohan Pasari (second row, first from left) and co-founder and chief operating officer Stanley Chia (second row, second from right), with their Singapore team. The education technology firm, which was founded in 2012, opened its first China office in October. PHOTO: CIALFO

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Start-ups come and go, but a rare few manage to raise funds, scale up and could eventually become household names. Economics Correspondent Chia Yan Min identifies five under-the-radar young firms that you could be hearing a lot more about in the coming year.

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CIALFO

Tapping opportunities

Singapore-based education technology firm Cialfo, which helps students apply to universities in the United States and Britain, opened its first China office in October, in Shanghai.

This came after the company raised an undisclosed amount in pre-Series A funding.

Cialfo, founded in 2012, streamlines the university application process through an online platform coupled with expert mentoring. Consultants also provide help for university essays and admission interviews.

"Cialfo's vision is to help a million students find their dream college through our platform by 2020," said co-founder and chief executive Rohan Pasari in October, when the China expansion was announced.