Kiran Deshpande – Bio

Kiran was with TCS from 1978 to 1992 Oct. he was on various projects from 1978 to 1985 when he was picked by Ram and Mr. Kohli for business development role in US, specially set up Dallas office for TCS in 1985 and Boston office in 1987. Kiran returned to India towards end of 1988 to TRDDC and founded Object Technology group that built MasterCraft suite of tools, and the AI group. He also led the initiative to build enabling platforms for CASE tools initiative of TCS.

Kiran left TCS in Oct 1992 to join IMR US as Vice Preside of R&D. He was with IMR till May 1996 when he joined Tech Mahindra as Managing Director & CEO in June 1996. Under Kiran's leadership, TechM grew from Rs. 32Crore revenue in FY96 to over 450Crore by FY 2001. He prepared for the IPO, but it was called off in view of Ketan Parekh scandal that hit the stock market then. He left TechM in November 2001 and founded Mojo Networks (then AirTight Networks) with Dr. Pravin Bhagwat (an IITK alumnus) and two other founders. Mojo Networks invented WiFi security radios and built technology for WiFi security that was called WIPS or wireless intrusion prevention system. Mojo Networks expanded its product line with cloud managed Secure WiFi and built a global business. Mojo Networks was acquired by Arista Networks (An S&P 500 company), a leader in scalable data center switches and routers. Kiran exited Arista at the end of 2019 and since then has been Board advisor to three technology product companies, angel investor, mentor to several startups and core part of TiE Pune senior leadership team. Kiran has taught entrepreneurship for IITB eYantra program and other institutions.

Kiran joined TiE (The Indus Entrepreneur) in 2009 as charter member and was founder of TiE Pune's mentoring program called Nurture. Nurture has been recognized as the most prolific mentoring program in global TiE system and is being adopted by several TiE chapters. Kiran has personally mentored over 30 startups and has also been mentor of mentors. Kiran served as the President of TiE Pune from Jan 2016 to December 2019.

Kiran was recently elected to the Board IITB Alumni Association (IITBAA) and has worked closely with IITB, IITK and other academic institutions.

A senior member of IEEE and member of ACM, Kiran is M. Tech (EE) from IIT Bombay and BE (Honours) in Electronics from BITS Pilani.

Kiran lives in Pune with his wife Rajani.