

NCL and Deepak Nitrite Ltd. sign MOU

DEEPAK Nitrite Limited (DNL) and the National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), Pune have recently entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) that will allow DNL and NCL to



From left: Dr. T.S. Gore, DNL, Dr. Paul Ratnasamy, Mr. Deepak Mehta, Dr. L.K. Doraiswamy, Dr. R. A. Mashelkar, Dr. S. Sivaram, and Prof. M.M. Sharma

work closely together in identifying and pursuing research and development opportunities of mutual interest where fruitful and synergistic collaboration can be achieved.

As part of this MoU, DNL has set up an R&D centre within the NCL Innovation Park in the close vicinity to NCL, in order to leverage the expertise and facilities of NCL. The R&D centre has been incorporated as Deepak Research & Development Foundation (DRDF) and was inaugurated recently by Dr. R. A. Mashelkar, Director-General, CSIR. Dr. S. Sivaram, Director of NCL, Dr. M.M. Sharma, Chairman of NCL's Research Council, Dr. L.K. Doraiswamy and Dr. Paul Ratnasamy, both, former Directors of NCL were present on the occasion.

This agreement between DNL and NCL represents a new model for public - private partnerships, wherein, the research competencies and resources of a leading publicly funded research

laboratory and the process engineering, and scale up capabilities, manufacturing expertise and business insights of a private sector enterprise will be twinned to develop innovative new processes and products while also delivering end-to-end research services to customer world wide.

The DRDF is the first such facility to be set up in the NCL Innovation Park (www.innovationpark.org). The NCL Innovation Park is a 43,000 sq m facility being developed by NCL to support the birth, growth and expansion plans of research and knowledge-based business entities through critical stages of their growth by providing ready-to-occupy space with easy access to knowledge centers (like NCL), knowledge workers, business networks and other resources. The NCL Innovation Park shall also be home to the Venture Center (www.venturecenter.co.in), a business incubator. The Venture Center will initially occupy 10,000 sq ft of built up area and aim to nucleate and nurture technology and knowledge-based enterprises.

Speaking at the inauguration of DRDF, Mr. Deepak Mehta, Managing Director, DNL said, "We are very happy with this partnership as it adds a new dimension to innovation and technology creation at DNL. At DNL, R&D and marketing have been the two drivers of growth. We have always used home grown technologies to fuel our growth. This partnership will give a further boost to our technology development activities and our foray into contract research and outsourcing. We also hope that this partnership will lead to the creation of valuable intellectual property and know-how that

will benefit both organizations." Dr. Sivaram welcomed the setting up of DRDF in the NCL Innovation Park premises. He said, "The NCL Innovation Park will operate with the public good in mind even though it will be largely privately funded and will have private organizations occupying it. We recognize that the environment and culture at NCL Innovation Park will be different from that of a research institute like NCL. The synergy of private and public research laboratory working in close co-operation add value to both the organizations and ultimately to our customers." Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Mashelkar congratulated DNL and NCL on taking this initiative and said that companies occupying the NCL Innovation Park would actually have the privilege of having access to the "mind space of NCL" which was something



Mr. Deepak Mehta and Dr. R. A. Mashelkar

much more valuable than the physical resources of NCL. He hoped that both DNL and NCL would use this opportunity to work together on innovative projects with the potential of creating long-term value for all.

National Chemical Laboratory (www.ncl-india.org), Pune, India is a research, development and consulting organisation with a focus on chemistry and chemical engineering. It has a successful record of research partnership with industry. NCL is a flagship laboratory of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) which is the largest network of publicly funded research institutes in India.