



National Chemical Laboratory

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Publication and Science Communication Unit

Press release

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NCL showcases polymer science technology opportunities

National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) and Venture Center organised a one day event aimed at showcasing the commercial potential of some of the NCL technologies. This event was held on Friday, November 13, 2009 at NCL Innovation Park premises. It was attended by sixty five people including forty entrepreneurs from Pune and surrounding areas and some members from the MNCs in India.

The day-long event began with an inaugural speech by Dr. S. Sivaram, Director, NCL who stressed on the need for commercializing available technologies. He felt that there should be an increased interaction between the scientists and the entrepreneurs so that many of the technologies existing in the lab can generate economic and social value via licensing deals or technology start-ups. Dr. V. Premnath, Head of NCL Innovations, spoke about how NCL Innovations is creating an ecosystem to promote technology acceleration, a strong technology pipeline, technology commercialization via licensing and spin-offs, new venture development and public private partnerships. Dr. Premnath also spoke about successful start-ups such Biopore Surgicals and Tridiagonal Solutions with NCL roots.

In the morning session, Meghna Sudha Panda and Piyush Joshi presented select NCL competencies from the area of Polymer Science and Engineering, specifically: Super-absorbing polymers, Membranes, Microcapsules and microspheres and Silicones. The presentations consisted of NCL's core competency, the scientists involved and various examples of commercial applications of these technologies. The entrepreneurs were made aware of the products currently available in the market using technology similar to that of NCL. The aim of this exercise was to help the entrepreneurs understand the technology, the products, and the relevant markets and to enthuse them to think out of the box for other possible applications and markets. The scientist involved with these technologies - Dr. M.V. Badiger, Dr. Ashish Lele, Dr. U.K. Kharul, Dr. P.G. Shukla and Dr. P.P. Wadgaonkar - interacted with the audience and discussed many issues that the consumer comes across while dealing with these technologies.

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Post-lunch, the focus of the event shifted to technology commercialization. Dr. Magesh Nandagopal, Scientist at NCL Innovations, made the participants aware of the various options available at NCL to entrepreneurs and corporations interested in licensing its technologies. He further explained that the technology from NCL can either be licensed or assigned and the payment modes can be upfront, milestone, royalty or equity in the company. Kaushik Gala, business development manager, Venture Center, talked in detail about the programs and services offered by Venture Center, including its flagship program - 'Lab2Mkt'. The Lab2Mkt program begins by mapping technologies to problems and evaluating them against set criteria, thereby creating a pipeline of technology commercialization opportunities. The best opportunities are taken up as Lab2Mkt candidates, to be taken to market via spin-offs.

Dr. Vinay Agrawal shared his experiences with the audience about his venture Biopore Surgicals, which develops ocular and maxillofacial implants based on polymer technology developed by NCL. From the early interactions with NCL to the technology transfer, Dr. Agrawal plotted all the steps against a timeline, making it easier for the audience to understand the technology transfer process at NCL. He discussed the various challenges faced by the company pre- and post-production. The audience greatly appreciated the opportunity to hear from an entrepreneur who has managed to successfully commercialize NCL technology.

Vibhor Jindal a finance consultant at Venture Center concluded the showcase by informing the audience about the various funding sources available for technology start-ups. He elaborated on the different types of funding available at various stages of venture creation. Government of India, through various schemes, ministries and departments provides grants to such technology entrepreneurs. Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Micro Small Medium Enterprises, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research and Small Industries Development Bank of India provide money for early stage funding, patent filings etc. Apart from the government sources of funding there are angels and Venture capitalists who substantially invest in a start-up. All the sources of funding are available at <http://www.venturecenter.co.in/funding/funding.php>.

This event generated a lot of interest amongst the audience. At the end of the day thirteen entrepreneurs / corporations expressed an interest in the technologies presented during the showcase. The expression of interest ranged from knowing more about the technologies presented to discussing other areas such as pharmaceuticals, drug delivery, specialty polymers and renewable energy sector.



Dr. S. Sivaram delivering inaugural address

Dr. V. Premnath briefing on the purpose of the event

Dr. Vinay Aggarwal sharing his experience

Dr. M.V. Badiger, interacting with audience

Participants looking at samples of commercially available products

Notes to Editor:

National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) (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, www.csir.res.in) which is the largest network of publicly funded research institutes in India.

Entrepreneurship Development Center (Venture Center) (www.venturecenter.co.in), Pune, India – a CSIR initiative - is a not-for-profit company hosted by the National Chemical Laboratory, Pune. Venture Center strives to nucleate and nurture technology and knowledge-based enterprises by leveraging the scientific and engineering competencies of the institutions in the Pune region in India. The Venture Center is a technology business incubator specializing in technology enterprises offering products and services exploiting scientific expertise in the areas of materials, chemicals and biological sciences & engineering.