

Some chemistry: NCL, Deepak Nitrite ink MoU

BY A STAFF REPORTER

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BANER: National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) and Pune-based Deepak Nitrite Limited (DNL) have entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) yesterday, to work together in identifying and pursuing research and development opportunities of mutual interest.

As a part of this MOU, DNL has set up an R&D centre within NCL Innovation Park in order to leverage the expertise and facilities of NCL. The R&D centre has been incorporated as Deepak Research & Development Foundation (DRDF), a fully-owned subsidiary of DNL, and was inaugurated yesterday by Dr R A Mashelkar, Director-General, CSIR.

Director of NCL Dr S Sivaram, Chairman of NCL's Research Council Dr M M Sharma, ex-Directors of NCL Dr L K Doraiswamy and Dr Paul Ratnasamy were present at the inaugural function.

This agreement between DNL and NCL will represent a new model for public-private partnerships, wherein research expertise and resources of a leading publicly funded research laboratory, and the manufacturing expertise and business

insights of a private sector company will be combined to develop innovative new processes and products.

DRDF will be the first facility to be set up in the newly-opened NCL Innovation Park. The NCL Innovation Park is a 43,000 sq m facility being developed by NCL to support research and knowledge-based business entities through their growth by providing ready space with easy access to knowledge centres (like NCL), knowledge workers, business networks and other resources.

Dr Sivaram said, "The NCL Innovation Park will operate with the public good in mind, even though it will be privately funded and will have private organisations occupying it. We understand that the environment and culture at NCL Innovation Park will be different than that of an institute like NCL. The synergy of industrial and public research laboratory working hand in hand will be beneficial to both and ultimately to the customers."

Dr Mashelkar 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 much more valuable than the physical resources of NCL.

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