

Printer Friendly VersionWEB LINK - <http://www.expresspharmaonline.com/20060415/market08.shtml>**Company Watch****DNL and NCL sign MoU**

Our News Bureau -Mumbai

Deepak Nitrite Limited (DNL) and the National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), Pune, have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that will allow DNL and NCL to work closely together in identifying and pursuing research and development opportunities of mutual interest.



As part of this MoU, DNL has set up an R&D centre within the NCL Innovation Park in 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), a fully-owned subsidiary of DNL. It was inaugurated 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, ex-Director of NCL and Dr Paul Ratnasamy, also an ex-Director of NCL were also present at the inaugural function.

This agreement between DNL and NCL will present a new model for public-private partnerships. According to the deal, the research expertise, inventive spirit and resources of a leading publicly-funded research laboratory and the process engineering and development skills, manufacturing expertise, and business insights of an established private sector company, will be combined to develop innovative new processes and products, while also delivering end-to-end research services.

The DRDF will be the first such facility to be set up in the newly opened NCL Innovation Park. The NCL Innovation Park is a 43,000 square metres facility, being developed by the NCL to support the birth, growth and expansion plans of research and knowledge-based business entities through critical stages of their growth. This can be achieved by providing ready-to-occupy space with easy access to knowledge centres (like NCL), knowledge workers, business networks and other resources. The NCL Innovation Park shall also be home to the venture centre, a business incubator. The venture centre will initially occupy 10,000 square feet of built up area and aim to nucleate and nurture technology and knowledge-based enterprises.

Dr Sivaram said, "The NCL Innovation Park will operate with the public in mind even though it will be privately funded and will have private organisations occupying it."