

**Trade-Technology E-Zine 10**  
(Centre for International Trade in Technology)

**Govt to speed up forming biotech panel**

The Government will fast forward the process to set up a National Biotechnology Regulatory Authority, to inspire confidence and stimulate public and private investment in biotechnology.

Biotechnology is an important option for higher agricultural productivity and ensuring food security. At the same time, it has no adverse effects on human and animal health and biodiversity. In light of the above, it is hoped that the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee will address the concerns for resolving all scientific issues relating to Bt brinjal.

*(The Hindu Business Line, 25 February 2010)*

**Textiles Ministry to focus on FDI from Germany, Italy**

The Textiles Ministry, which received foreign investments worth \$200 million in 2008, aims to increase its focus on countries like Germany, Italy, Turkey and China.

“The Foreign Direct Investment scheme aims at mobilising maximum possible FDI with specific focus from target countries namely Germany, Italy, Turkey, China and Switzerland which as per preliminary study are perceived among the most promising investors, ” said Ms Panabakka Lakshmi, Minister of State for Textiles.

The Indian textiles industry requires an additional investment of \$24 billion by 2015 to maintain a growth rate of 8 per cent. This may include domestic investment of \$18 billion and FDI of \$6 billion, said Mr Dayanidhi Maran, Union Textiles Minister. The textiles industry which is \$62 billion employs 35 million people.

*(The Hindu Business Line, 25 February 2010)*

**MIC Electronics to supply video screens to Australian club**

LED-video display manufacturer, MIC Electronics Ltd., has bagged an order to supply video screens to Parramatta Eels National Rugby League Club in Australia. According to the contract, the company will supply a 120-sq m video screen to Parramatta Eels, through Sequity Pty Ltd. “The total value of the contract is A\$360,000 (Rs 1.5 crore). The contract marks the entry of MIC into the “high-potential Australian sporting market.

*(The Hindu Business Line, 23 February 2010)*

**Drug research termination, streamlined laws hit global clinical trial registrations**

Multi-country clinical trials done in India by large pharmaceutical companies have seen a 30% dip in new registrations last year. There were 158 such new trials registered in 2009, compared with 229 in 2008, say clinical researchers citing data on the US government-supported registry for clinical trials.

The US registry is a reliable indicator of the sector's health, Dr. Arun Bhatt, President of ClinInyent said, as government and privately funded trials are registered on the site. Few Indian drug companies undertake such large trials, and they too would register on the US registry to

keep the process international, he explained. Several multinational drug majors including Pfizer, Novartis, Astra Zeneca and GSK, for instance, include India in their global trials.

Globally too, new clinical trial registrations dropped, by about 12% in 2009. China dipped close to 4% and Korea saw a 6% drop, he said. In fact, global phase III trials, where a medicine is tried on a group of patients, have taken a major hit last year – falling from 11,662 in April 2008 to 4,462 in November 2009, an industry official said, quoting the US registry. In the same period, Phase I trials (where the medicine is first exposed to healthy human volunteers) dropped from 8,540 to 4,423; Phase II trials (involving a larger same size of people with the disease the medicine targets) saw a dip from 16,878 to 8,009 trials.

*(The Hindu Business Line, 22 February 2010)*

### **Tecumseh to step up exports to US, Europe**

Compressor major Tecumseh Products, with two manufacturing bases in India at Hyderabad and Faridabad, is set to expand its exports to the US, parts of Europe and West Asia with a new range of products. Tecumseh is now focussing on compressor manufacture and supply, providing a solutions approach to customers. This includes new lines with investment of \$7-8 million and testing services set up with investment of about \$1.5 million. The company has invested \$70 million in India.

India has become one of the five strategic regions serving neighbouring countries, South East and West Asia, he said.

*(The Hindu Business Line, 19 February 2010)*

### **India to have Nanotechnology Regulatory Board soon**

The Nano Mission Council stated that the country will soon have a Nanotechnology Regulatory Board to regulate the industrial nanotech products that are used in day-to-day life. "We are in the process of forming a regulatory body for the nanotechnology and this will be called Nanotechnology Regulatory Board," Nano Mission Council Chairman C N R Rao said on the sidelines of a three-day International Conference on Nano Science and Technology.

"Indian industries are coming out with various nanotechnological products including water filters, biomedical products, several chemicals, cosmetics and paints. Therefore, we are in the process of formulating guidelines to regulate the products for the safety and benefit of the society," Shri Rao, who is also the Chairman of Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, said.

The Centre launched a Mission on Nano Science and Technology (Nano Mission) in May 2007. An allocation of Rs 1,000 crore for five years has been made towards it. The Department of Science and Technology is the nodal implementing agency of the Mission, DST Director Praveen Asthana said at the inauguration.

The DST had sanctioned \$20 million from 2002 to 2007 and the steep increase in the allocation speaks volumes on the importance given by the government to nanoscience and technology, Shri Asthana said.

*(Business Standard, 19 February 2010)*