



Trade-Technology E-Zine 24

(Centre for International Trade in Technology)

Cabinet approves setting up of CSIR Academy

The Union Cabinet, at a meeting chaired by the Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, approved the CSIR proposal to set up an Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR).

Once the AcSIR is set up, it would enable registration of such researchers. In addition, the academy will also award post-graduate degrees.

The objective is to stem the growing shortage of skilled manpower in the science and technology industry and the dwindling numbers of PhDs. The academy is expected to produce 1,000 PhDs in S&T and about 120 PhDs in engineering annually from the fifth year onwards.

With its headquarters in Noida, the institute is envisaged as a set-up that will network between the 37 CSIR laboratories, pool resources and faculty across these to create a national level academy with a strong research focus.

The CSIR has 4,500 scientists in diverse branches of science and engineering of which 2,500 could effectively be utilized for activities of the proposed academy.

“While utilizing the existing resources and facilities of CSIR, the Academy will operate on a self sustaining mode. The recurring expenses will be Rs 19.10 crore in the 11th Plan and Rs 61.79 crore in the 12th Plan. There will be no requirement for capital expenditure”, said Ms Ambika Soni, Minister of Information and Broadcasting.

While India produced 8,420 PhDs in science and engineering in 2006, China churned out 22,953 PhDs. “It has been clearly felt that the present output of trained post-graduates and doctorates in science and engineering was far from adequate,” a CSIR official said.

(The Hindu Business Line, 18 June 2010)

M&M to set up three-way joint venture in UAE

Mahindra & Mahindra, Arabia Holdings and Ras Al-Khaimah Transport Investments have joined hands for a joint venture in Emirates of Ras Al Khaimah in the UAE for vehicle armouring.

The joint venture will launch a number of Mahindra Defence Systems' armoured vehicles such as the Marksman, the up-armoured Scorpio, cash-in-transit van. The joint venture is being set up in the UAE because of the low-cost manufacturing and its proximity to Gulf countries, Africa and Central Asia.

M&M's Mahindra Defence Systems (MDS) has expertise in the design and development of ballistic kits for vehicle protection.

(The Hindu Business Line, 18 June 2010)

Solar energy next economic engine

The solar energy sector is poised to emerge as the next economic engine fuelled by demand and consumption in the local market, according to Dr Madhusudhan V. Atre, President and Managing Director of Applied Materials India.

Unlike few policy interventions in the case of telecom sector, the solar sector requires constant interactions and support from the Government. These include feeding tariff, grid connectivity, power purchase and roof top systems among others.

“The National Solar Mission (NSM) has provided a new direction for the sector. The targets are tough but achievable if we take right steps. The biggest challenge is to bring down the cost of solar power,” he said.

R&D

India has been identified as a potential hub for nanotechnology, semiconductor chip design and the solar sector. There is need for industry-ready talent. Applied Materials is committed to driving research and has donated about \$8 million worth equipments. In league with IIT-Bombay Applied Materials Lab has been set up and research projects are under way with IIT-B and IISc, Bangalore.

The company is working with universities, the Government and industry bodies in driving technology, growing talent and make solar power affordable to end users. Driving the cost per watt down is major focus. The solar sector is set for similar patterns witnessed in the integrated circuit industry in terms of costs coming down, he felt.

(The Hindu Business Line, 16 June 2010)

Trichy co ties up with Swedish firm for gas turbine venture

Trichy-based engineering company Baby Engineering Pvt. Ltd (BEPL) has entered into a collaboration with Sweden-based Camfil Farr Power Systems, a leader in air filtration systems for turbo machinery, to manufacture products for gas turbine power plants. Under the agreement, BEPL will be the fabrication source for CFPS in both global and domestic markets.

BEPL has established a fabrication plant at Tuvakudi, where it will manufacture air filtration modules and transmission ducting products, along with supporting structures and chimneys meant for gas turbine power plants, on behalf of CFPS.

The Swedish collaborator has made a small capital investment in the venture, besides providing technical expertise and design and engineering support. It will also take care of marketing.

Camfil Farr has 29 stockists and 25 production units with agents throughout Europe, North America and Asia. CFPS will be able to cater to the needs of clients located in South-East Asia, the Middle East and the Gulf.

(The Hindu Business Line, 15 June 2010)