

MATERIALS CHARACTERISATION

Indo-French workshop on Solid State NMR held at NCL

An international Indo-French workshop on 'New Solid State NMR Methods in Materials Characterisation' was inaugurated on 18 July at the National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), Pune by Dr. P.G.S. Mony, Director, Indo-French Centre for Promotion of Advanced Research (CEFIPRA),



Dr. P.G.S. Mony

New Delhi. This workshop, held at NCL from 18-21 July, has five French scientists, one German scientist and one scientist from Denmark, as invited speakers. Besides, there are eight invited speakers from India, as well as 35 participants, of which three students are from France and others from various parts of India. During the four-day period, several topics in solid-state NMR spectroscopy and its applications will be presented and discussed.

In his welcome address, Dr. S. Sivaram, Director, NCL, welcomed the delegates and highlighted the NCL-CEFIPRA collaborations over the years to promote research between the NCL and French groups, as well as the workshops organized through CEFIPRA, of which the present workshop is a new initiative. Dr. Sivaram also traced through many of the significant developments in NMR and how it has penetrated into different research laboratories in India. He added that there has been new developments in solid state NMR methodology and practice and hence a workshop of the type that CEFIPRA and NCL has organized will bring to the fore state-of-the-art NMR research for the benefit of young students and researchers. He also stressed that solid state NMR activities in NCL have long been nurtured and NCL has strong and vibrant research group with state-of-the-art NMR equipment. He also expressed the hope that this workshop would create both

awareness and interest among younger people to pursue a career in NMR.

Indo-French collaborations

Dr. Mony, in his inaugural address, spoke about the way CEFIPRA supports various research programmes between Indian and French institutions and mentioned that workshops of this kind should result in strong mutual interactions among the participants and to develop new bil-

teral programs. He also mentioned that conducting the workshop at NCL was relevant in view of NCL's contributions to the field of solid state NMR. Prof. Amoureux from University of Lille, France, who was the French coordinator, outlined the various aspects of the scientific programme of the workshop, including lectures and demonstrations. Dr. Ganapathy, head of solid state NMR group at NCL proposed vote of thanks. This was followed by an overview of solid state NMR by Prof. Anil Kumar from IISc, Bangalore.

RESEARCH HUB

'India R&D 2005' to woo foreign investment to make India a knowledge hub

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) and Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), is organising a two-day global conference and exhibition – 'India R&D 2005: The World's Knowledge Hub of the Future' from November 7-8, 2005 in Delhi, which will focus on showcasing India's intellectual capacity. The event aims to stimulate foreign investment in terms of more R&D centres being set up in India. The conference is expected to be inaugurated by Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh and addressed by eminent scientists and experts from the corporate, academic and scientific community. The conference and exhibition will throw up a host of business opportunities in areas like technology transfer, investment, joint ventures, setting up of R&D bases in India; sourcing requirements from India, etc.

Technology transfers to get a boost

At a meeting of Ambassadors and High Commissioners organised by FICCI to announce the event, Mr. Y.P. Kumar, Head, International Division, DST, said that DST was helping in transfer of technologies through its 62 centres abroad and this process would get a further boost through the event, which sought to promote joint ventures between foreign and Indian parties.

R&D investment to grow by over 40%

Spotlighting the emergence of India as a potential destination for R&D, Mr. Ashish Gupta, COO, Evalueserve, the knowledge partner for the 'India R&D 2005' conference, pointed out that R&D investment in India had grown at a CAGR of 45% over 2002-04 and had reached \$6.8-bn in 2004. The growth is likely to remain over 40% in the coming years, he said.