

## **MSN Laboratories to set up a new R&D centre in Hyderabad**

Hyderabad-based Rs 390 crore formulation and contract research and manufacturing services provider, MSN Laboratories, is setting up a new R&D centre in Hyderabad with an investment of over Rs 40 crore. The full fledged commercial operation from the new centre will begin by first quarter of 2011. The company has arranged for funds from internal accruals.

The new R&D centre will be dedicated for process chemistry, oncology chemicals, formulations and R&D, process engineering etc. The company is involved in the manufacturing of high quality Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) and key pharmaceutical intermediates. MSN Lab has strong R&D background supported by IPM team to develop non-infringing and cost effective processes to cater to the specific requirements of the customers worldwide.

Bharat Reddy, Executive Director, MSN Laboratories said, "We have a very strong team and R&D backup. Looking at the pharma generic products opportunity in the market we have finalized our expansion plans. Initially, we will be building up a brand new integrated R&D centre for finished dosages, APIs and CRAMs. For our new R&D centre we will be hiring 350 scientists. We have already commenced construction work and it should be completed by early next year."

At present, MSN Lab has total manpower strength of 1,350 people, of which 20 percent staff is dedicated for R&D on new product development and R&D process equally. The company is actively working on generic APIs for oncology and anything related to synthetic organic chemistry. MSN Lab is outsourcing required raw material from India, China and some parts of Europe.

The company has 55 APIs globally, out of which it has obtained 30 plus drug master files (DMFs) for US and Europe market. It has filed seven COPs/CEP for Europe market. Overall, it has filled 85 patents and soon it is targeting to get three to four product patents. "We have been continuously working on novel route of synthesis and we are applying for patent on process development," Reddy said.

MSN has 60 odd branded generic products for anti hypertensive, anti-hyper lipoproteinemic, anti depressants, anti-thrombotic, anti fungal, anti-bacterials, anti migraine, anti diabetic and anti psychotic etc in its basket. It is in the process of product registration of existing portfolio for ROW market. "We have already started registration work and in next six months we will be having everything in place."

Reddy comments on the company's inorganic growth, "At present we do not have any activities in place, but we are looking for marketing tie ups. We are entering into the Japanese market, while also extending our presence in the Korean market."

From the financial year 2010-11, the company is expecting a turnover of Rs 650 crore. The company has strong expansion plans lined up for the next two years.