

President to inaugurate Sun Pharma's research center

Mumbai, December 7: His Excellency Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, the Honorable President of India, will inaugurate Sun Pharma's new research center in Baroda on the evening of December 14.

This inauguration will formally put on a new threshold, the company's initiatives in drug discovery innovation.

The SPARC research site in Baroda, built on a 16-acre campus, offers 200,000 sq ft of well thought out research floor area, housing modern labs for a committed team of 325 scientists, with plans to add 125 more.

Extensive, airy and well-designed facilities have been created in areas across process chemistry, dosage form development including novel drug delivery systems. Large labs have been built to house departments that have a critical role to play in the development of a new compound. Modern and exhaustively equipped lab areas in biological/analytical development include areas in pharmacokinetics, tissue culture and screening.

Based on the work done so far, Sun Pharma already has one molecule in clinical trials in Europe, which is enroute to becoming a drug. Interesting projects are in the pipeline in three more therapy areas of interest. Intellectual property earning projects are also underway in novel drug delivery systems, with 2 projects about to begin clinical trials in Europe. A total of 33 patents have been received (across both drug discovery and reverse engineering projects) with another 331 filings awaiting approval.

Sun Pharma has been amongst the earliest Indian companies to invest in research at a firm 4% of turnover or more since the year 1993, when the first research site was set up. These research investments and the technologies that they helped develop, helped increase turnover from Rs32cr in 1993 to Rs1124cr in 2004. The current R&D budget is pegged at Rs75 cr for each of the next two years, with close to 50% of this earmarked for investments in intellectual property earning, drug discovery innovation.

Sun Pharma is ranked 5th among all Indian pharma companies with a 3.24%MS (IMS - ORG Retail Store Audit, October 2004). The company leads with a top rank in high growth niche therapy areas of psychiatry, neurology, cardiology- where it is ranked number 1, in gastroenterology, ophthalmology, diabetology and orthopedics where it is among the top players (CMARC March - June 2004). Sun Pharma's US subsidiary Caraco Pharm labs (Amex: CPD) had recently reported 9 month sales of \$43.7mill and free cash of \$16.9 mill, based largely on the technology developed and transferred by the team at SPARC.

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