> We plan to develop a campus sharing the 'mind space' of NCL that would help nucleate start-up technology enterprises...

NCL-encouraging excellence

The aim is to encourage scientists to spin-off knowledge-based enterprises to demonstrate early stage innovation through a robust business plan. To create an institution with excellence devoted to acquisition, transmission and application of knowledge, says Dr S Sivaram

Established with an objective of advanced research in chemicals and allied disciplines, the National Chemical Laboratory, has polymer science, organic chemistry, catalysis, materials chemistry, chemical engineering, biochemical sciences and process development as its main areas of research.

Besides being the producer of largest number of PhDs in chemical sciences in India, it publishes second largest number of papers in chemical sciences and files the largest number of patents, in India as well as abroad. The world class infrastructure facilities for research help around 400 students pursue their research work in NCL for doctoral degrees and about 80 students are awarded PhD degree every year.

Besides PhD. students, several Msc, BTech and BE students work on their final year projects at NCL while scientists of NCL teach at local colleges and universities. NCL also conducts specialised continuing education programmes for the industry. It has been conducting training programs for various industries for polyolefin manufacturing technologies, polyolefin rheology and processing of polyolefins.

The world-class infrastructure which supports the science and technology activities in India includes pilot plants, sophisticated instruments, information infrastructure, workshop and glass blowing. Another highlight is the interdisciplinary research centre with interests in polymer science, organic chemistry, catalysis, materials chemistry, chemical engineering, biochemical sciences and process development.

A recognised centre of excellence for academic research in chemical and related sciences, NCL has enjoyed a distinguished tradition of scholarship for over six decades and has nurtured world class scientists in diverse areas. The laboratory has made significant contributions to human resource development for both, academia and industry. NCL alumni occupy positions of distinctions in both academic and corporate world in Indian and abroad.

NCL' s portfolio of programmes include process and product development, reaction engineering, pilot plant experiments, process design and engineering, process simulation and modeling, computational modeling, technical consulting and continuing education. It has the capability to deliver solutions to customers across the full spectrum, from laboratory scale development to design and operation of batch and continuous pilot plants and preparation of basic engineering packages. It is focussed on creating value to customers through innovations, IP, development of processes and science based understanding of complex phenomena.

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Future plans

Venture Centre, a technology business incubator is planned. It will specialise in technology enterprises, providing products and services, exploiting scientific expertise in the areas of materials, chemicals and biological sciences and engineering. NCL will float it as the trademark of Entrepreneurship Development Center and a not-for-profit independent company. To be set up within the NCL Innovation Park, it will have labs, office and hot-desking space for start-up companies, shared laboratories, analytical facilities, an information and learning center, and other supporting resources and services.

Snapshots

Established in: 1950
Location: Dr Homi Bhaba Road, Pashan
First Director: Prof James W McBain
Current Director: Dr S Sivaram
Staff strength: 1872
Mission: Internationally known for its excellence in scientific research in chemical sciences, life sciences, and engineerings, the NCL is a science and knowledge-based research, development and consulting organisation. Research here spans diverse areas of scientific and industrial research covering various disciplines. All research disciplines are supported by several resource centres.