

Global tech within reach of 'bottom of the world': CSIR

THE focus at India's premier research organisation Council of Scientific and Industrial Research is clear—global participation with local relevance. The organisation has begun to partner with large national and international companies on co-development of technologies which have the potential to benefit the 'bottom of the world', as Mr Samir Brahmachari, director general, CSIR puts it.

The Open Source Drug Discovery programme of CSIR is a case in point. The vision behind it was to provide affordable healthcare to the developing world. "Our biggest success in making healthcare affordable was when we worked with various global players," says Mr Brahmachari.

One of the research labs, IIM Jammu co-developed an anti-tuberculosis drug with Cadila. The drug is 23% cheaper and has much less side effects.

In major engineering, CSIR has developed a carbon fibre technology together with industry. With Procter & Gamble, the CSIR National Chemical Laboratory developed a high absorbent material, which can be used for diapers for the old in the western world. "We are also seeing how it can be used for making low-cost sanitary napkins for rural women in India," he says.

The council is also working on aircraft biofuel, a fuel cell technology with Reliance and many other solar energy technologies. "A large number of small companies are tying up with us for solar technologies that can be good for rural areas," says Mr Brahmachari. There are also a number of technologies in the food processing area which CSIR wants to give to small companies in India.

With the pharma sector seeing a number of sizeable M&As in recent years, CSIR is now working on a new model for its future MoUs with companies whereby CSIR holding company will have an equity stake in technologies that are co-developed with private players.

CSIR is associated with the 'Ideas4You' programme being conducted under the aegis of ET's 'The Power of Ideas' initiative.

Dreaming of pursuing your own enterprise, but stuck for lack of a good idea? This is the perfect opportunity for you. 'Ideas for You' is a showcase of the most promising innovations developed by the National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). A SNAPSHOT OF SOME OF THE IDEAS DEVELOPED BY CSIR:

HIGH BUILD EPOXY MASTIC COATING Impact: The product – a High build Epoxy mastic coating and sealant polyurethane coat for steel structures in acidic, neutral and marine environment is useful in protection of steel surfaces in such corrosive environments. The sealant coat is also excellent weather resistant



COIR-CNSL BOARD Impact: The product is a single layer flat pressed class MDF Board with features like low water absorption etc suitable for paneled door shutters and furniture. It can be worked upon with normal wood working tools, is paintable and on this pre-lamination, nailing & screwing are possible



FLOORING TILES FROM WASTE GYPSUM Impact: These are high-strength, low water absorbing and wear resistant tiles made from a moist mixture containing gypsum plaster. Apart from making attractive floor tiles in different colours, designs, textures and configurations, these tiles will also help eliminate disposal and pollution problems caused by gypsum waste.



HIGH PURITY (>99 %) SOLAR SALT Impact: This salt is taken directly from the crystallizer pans in

solar salt works with greatly reduced common impurities. This innovation is a cost-effective process for preparation of common salt. Overall, it will bring down operational cost of units involved in purification of salt for making it ready-to-use