

NCL process puts Indian company in unique club

Vinati Organics Ltd becomes the first manufacturer of ATBS, a specialty monomer, in the country. National Chemical Laboratory developed the technology for the product

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PUNE: With the latest technology created by National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), Mumbai-based Vinati Organics Ltd becomes the first manufacturer of acrylamido tertiary-butyl sulfonic acid (ATBS) in India.

Incidentally, ATBS is produced by only a couple of manufacturers in the world, NCL has developed the technology by a team headed by Prashant Barve, Head, Process Development and Engineering Group. ATBS is a specialty monomer used as co-monomer in polymerization processes. It is used in the dye-pickup applications for synthetic fibres such as poly (acrylonitrile) fibers. Besides, ATBS as water soluble monomer is used in other applications such as Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR application).

NCL had invented the process, which is protected by patents, to make ATBS. The processes involved in the production of this unique monomer were transferred to Vinati Organics Ltd (VOL), Mumbai, for commercial implementation,

NCL team provided commissioning assistance and training of technical and analytical staff. NCL also provided continuous technical support to Vinati Organics Ltd for a year to overcome initial problems and obtain the product with requisite quality. The plant capacity which was initially 2000 tons per annum (tpa) in 2002 is being currently expanded to 12000 tpa.

Prashant P Barve has developed other novel and efficient processes for important fine and bulk chemicals, which are either exported or produced by only a handful companies around the world.