

## NCL Expects Rs 35 Cr Sales From 2 Technologies

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**Pune, December 26:** : The National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) has successfully taken two of its technologies to the market this year. These are expected to notch up sales of about Rs 30-35 crore in the domestic market. They will debut in the international markets in 2004.

S-Amlodipine, the first chiral drug in the Indian market, launched by Emcure Pharmaceuticals in association with NCL, has got good response from the market, NCL director Dr S Sivaram said. The drug was launched in the Indian market in September 2002 and is expected to touch the Rs 20 crore annual sales mark. Emcure is chalking out plans to go global with the drug in 2003.

Another product ready for commercial launch is a specialty monomer for water soluble polymers for helping pump more oil from wells. This Acrylamido-2-Methyl Propane Sulfonic Acid (AMPS) process commercialisation is being done by Vinati Organics Ltd.

The 1000-tonne plant with a capacity of 1000 tonne per annum (tpa) is nearing completion at Mahad. Dr Sivaram reckons this product could achieve an annual turnover of about Rs 15 crore. Currently this product is only available with Lubrizol of the US. The Indian market could consume about 750 to 800 tpa and the rest could be exported, Dr Sivaram said.

Another achievement this year has been the installation of a soft sensor based on artificial neural network at the Hazier poly ethylene plant of Reliance Industries. The soft sensor for process control was implemented through a dedicated software. Reliance has acknowledged the benefits of the technology to the operating plant in terms of better and consistent quality of products, Dr Sivaram said.

A team from Dupont has just concluded a visit to NCL for exploring joint research projects. NCL expects five new projects from Dupont. The laboratory is already working with the textiles and interiors division of Dupont.

NCL has an annual budget of about Rs 55 crore and about 22 per cent of its money comes from domestic and global industry. The laboratory was looking at doing 50 per cent of the research which was business driven while keeping the rest for mission-oriented long-term research.