



**NEWSLETTER: MAY- JULY, 2014**

## **LIFE SCIENCES SECTOR SKILL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

### **ABOUT US**

National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has been mandated to set up Sector Skills Councils for the express purpose of sector-specific competencies/skills, developing National Occupation Standards (NOS's) and Qualification Packs (QP's), quality assurance through accreditation of skills acquired by trainees, curriculum development for the skills training, qualification framework and setting of standards and benchmarks, helping in recruitment and placement of trained and skilled workforce, as well as developing a robust LMIS.

The Indian Life Sciences Sector (comprising Pharmaceuticals, Bio Technology and Clinical) has been growing at a CAGR of 17%. In the process it has been facing a shortage of skilled work force across functions and levels. With this background, CII, in co-operation with NSDC, decided to set up a Sector Skill Council for Life Sciences namely, the Life Sciences Sector Skill Development Council (LSSSDC).

LSSSDC is a not for profit organisation, registered under the Societies Act, 1860. As a National level organization, in partnership with various stakeholders groups, it will serve to address the skill shortfalls in the Life Sciences Sector in India. It's aim, over a 10 year period, will be to map all job roles in the Sector (estimated 100), enlist 339 Training Organisations, train over 39,000 Trainers and certify approx. 3.4 mn skilled workers in this Sector.

LSSSDC, has Mr. Satish Reddy, Chairman of Dr. Reddy's Lab, as it's Chairman. At the helm is a Governing Body with representation from various Stakeholder groups, including industry (through major Associations such as IPA, BDMA, IDMA, CIPI, ABLE and ACRO), Government, (through Pharmexcil) and Academia (NIPER & DIPSAR). Day to day operations are managed by the CEO, Mr. Ranjit Madan (a professional, with 30 years corporate sector experience) and his team.

Funding for first few years will be through a combination of grant through NSDC and contributions from Industry, via it's Associations. Thereafter, Council is expected to become self- sustained, through revenue flows from fees for training, accreditation, certification; and membership.

LSSSDC will be Demand led, Comprehensive (taking account of needs of Stakeholders), emphasising Standards and Quality, with a Sustainable and Scalable model. It will provide industry with a sustained stream of skilled individuals across functional areas and levels, thereby vastly reducing costs associated with re-skilling, attrition and low productivity. In the process it also hopes to help address issue of fake certificates and degrees—an area of major concern to the Life Sciences industry. Alongside, it will provide meaningful livelihood opportunities in the Life Sciences sector to a multitude of job seekers.

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### **KEY ACTIVITIES & EVENTS: MAY- JULY, 2014**

LSSDC was registered as a Society under the Societies Act, 1860, on May 12, 2014, with its office at a convenient location in Vasant Vihar, New Delhi.

The first General Body Meeting was held on May 14, 2014 with the Founder Members comprising, Mr Satish Modi (Chairman, Dr Reddy's Lab) as its Chairman; Dr. Shubnum Singh (Dean, Max Healthcare and Member of Governing Council, Health Care Sector Skill Council) as its Secretary; Dr S.K. Gupta (Director, DIPSAR) as its Treasurer; Dr Ahmed Kamal, Project Director, NIPER Hyderabad; Mr. Apurva Shah, MD, Veeda Clinical Research and ex-Chairman, ACRO; Dr Murali, President, Association of Bio Technology Led Enterprises (ABLE); Mr. Jayant Tagore, President, Bulk Drug Manufacturers Association (BDMA); and Dr. Appaji, DG, Pharmexcil.

During this meeting, GB membership was augmented by 2 by adding Mr DG Shah, Secretary General, IPA and Dr Rajiv Modi (Chairman, Cadila), representing IDMA— bringing the Governing Body members number to 11.

The first few team members were also recruited in May in the form of Mr. Anshul Saxena, Director, NOS Development & Curriculum Advisory and Ms. Arushi Gulati, EA to CEO and HR Officer. Soon after, we had an inaugural function at our office in Vasant Vihar, New Delhi, and guests included those from our major stakeholders- CII and NSDC.



**(Inaugural Function of LSSDC office, June 11)**

LSSDC commenced work (ahead of the comprehensive study) on its primary function of development of National Occupation Standards (NOS's) and Qualification Packs (QP's), by taking up 5 of the more voluminous job roles, as identified by organisations in the industry selected at random. These are QP's relating to Medical Sales Representative, QC Chemist, QA Chemist, Production Chemist and Operator production-Solid Oral Dosage. The first 4 have since been ratified by industry and submitted for final review to NSDC.

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In order to do comprehensive study of all job roles and develop NOS's and QP's, across the Sector, a Pre-bid meeting was held with prospective 'Knowledge Partners' in Delhi on May 22. The RFP was issued on June 12 and a total of 7 bids were received on July 8. These Bids were evaluated in Technical and Financial terms by the NOS Committee. The Bid was awarded to KPMG on July 17, and the contract is in the process of being signed.



**(Pre-bid meeting with potential 'Knowledge Partners', May 22)**

Detailed documentation required for signing of the agreement with NSDC was completed. Agreement was signed by Mr. Satish Reddy, Chairman, LSSSDC and Mr. Dilip Chenoy, MD, NSDC. We have since received the first tranche of the grant from NSDC—on July 30, 2014.



**(Signed agreements being exchanged between Mr Dilip Chenoy, MD, NSDC and Mr Ranjit Madan, CEO, LSSSDC, July 8)**

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Finally, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Governing Body meeting was held in New Delhi on July 16, 2015 at India Habitat Centre. In this meeting, CIPI, the Association that represents small scale enterprises in Life Sciences Sector in India, joined our GB. LSSSDC now has 7 Associations, namely IDMA, IPA, BDMA, CIPI, ABLE, ACRO and Pharmexcil, represented on it's GB.

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