

Quintiles opens new facility in Hyderabad

04 February 2011 | News

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Quintiles, a fully-integrated biopharmaceutical services company offering clinical, commercial, consulting and capital solutions worldwide, has officially opened its new phase I research facility at Apollo Health City, Hyderabad.

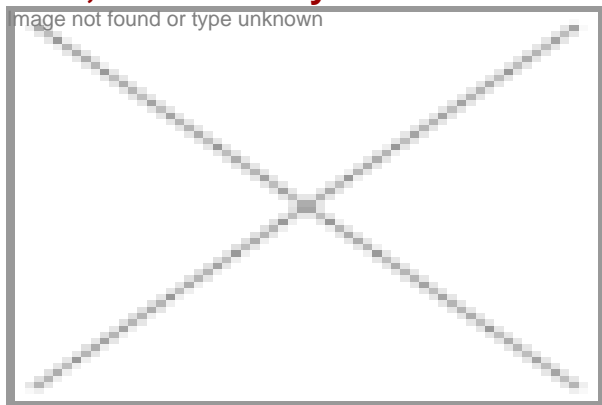
Constructed in partnership with Apollo Hospitals Group, the new facility will complement Quintiles existing phase I facilities to help customers navigate complex early development challenges and make key decisions. It will provide biopharma customers additional options to complete integrated phase I programs across multiple geographies at this pivotal stage in medical research.

Mr Eddie Caffrey, senior vice president and head of phase I research, Quintiles, said, “Sponsors are under intense pressure to speed-up the delivery of results, ethically, and without compromising patient safety or quality of data. With this new, state-of-the-art, phase I facility in Hyderabad, we will be better able to ally with customers by providing access to large numbers of healthy volunteers for simple studies, in parallel to more complex studies conducted by scientific experts in Europe and the US.”

The team in Hyderabad will work to global standards and procedures and will be connected to sites in London, Uppsala and Kansas through Quintiles global data network to simplify study management for sponsors and provide integrated information and perspective as early as possible in the development process.

The 86-bed unit will evaluate compounds developed both in India and in other countries. Data capture will be linked electronically to Quintiles' phase I units in the UK, the US, and Sweden. Thirty two beds are equipped with technically advanced diagnostic cardiology equipment for TQT studies.

Dow, GVK identify lead molecule



US-based agricultural company, Dow AgroSciences has identified a new lead molecule in partnership with GVK Biosciences (GVK BIO). This newly identified lead compound has been selected for its ability to address a key product goal in support of Dow AgroSciences' growing

The discovery research agreement with GVK BIO began in May 2008 with the goal of generating novel molecules for synthesis and testing as fungicides and insecticides. The two companies have benefited from the depth of expertise in medicinal chemistry and chemoinformatics at GVK BIO in combination with Dow AgroSciences' agricultural chemical

“We are very pleased to reach this milestone with GVK BIO under this collaborative discovery alliance. As we will invest in our strong agricultural chemicals business, we are building partnerships with some of the world's best research teams to discover creative new solutions in crop protection,” said Dr Daniel R Kittle, vice president of R&D, Dow AgroSciences.

“The collaboration validates GVK BIO's ability and leadership in discovery programs and specifically our expertise in agro-chemical research. We are delighted with the outcome of the lead molecule and attribute it to the significant collaborative efforts of the GVK BIO and Dow teams,” said Mr Manni Kantipudi, chief executive officer, GVK Biosciences.

Ecron Acunova expands India operation

Ecron Acunova, a leading CRO with operations in India and Europe, has announced the expansion of Mangalore Clinical Pharmacology Unit to a 80-bed facility.

This expansion caters to the growing needs of global clients in pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic studies. This takes total bed capacity to 176 units across research centers at Mangalore, Manipal and Bangalore.

Drug research at the center involves analyzing the activity of the drug in plasma using spectroscopy. Speaking on the occasion, Dr Pai says, “I commend the safe conduct of studies for Indian and global companies, leveraging the scientific and clinical talent of India. It is heartening to note that studies conducted at the center, got FDA approval, leading to launch of drugs for HIV and cancer treatments.”

Mr DA Prasanna, chairman and managing director, Ecron Acunova, said, “In a short period of five years, over 250 phase I studies and over 70 late phase studies have been conducted, making the company one of the top three amongst nearly 100 CROs in India. The expansion of the facility will help us to serve our clients at a faster pace.”