

**March 23,2004**

**Suven to set up Rs 100 cr unit in Vizag**

Suven Life Sciences Ltd will be setting up a new manufacturing unit in Visakhapatnam, at an estimated cost of Rs 100 crore, managing director Venkat Jasti said on Tuesday. Suven Life Sciences, an active pharmaceutical ingredients and drug intermediates' manufacturer, has acquired 10 acre of land at the 'Pharma City' in Visakhapatnam, an industrial park for pharmaceutical companies being set up by the State government.

"The first phase of the plant in Visakhapatnam is estimated to cost Rs 45 crore. The plant will be funded through internal accruals and term-loans," Jasti told Deccan Chronicle on the sidelines of a media briefing to announce a symposium on "Trends and Challenges in Globalisation of Pharmaceutical Drug Development.

The plant, which would be built according to United States Food and Drug Administration standards, would have an installed production capacity of 300 tonne per annum of active pharmaceutical ingredients and drug intermediates. Jasti, who is also the president of the Bulk Drug Manufacturers' Association, said Suven Life Sciences was also in the process of completing the upgradation of its plant at Pashamylaram near Hyderabad.

"We expect the upgradation to be completed by December this year. This plant too will be FDA compliant," Jasti said. The symposium, to be held in Goa from April 29-May 1, is being organised by the Life Sciences Alliance. The Life Sciences Alliance was formed in 2003. It includes Suven Life Sciences, Shasun Chemicals and Drugs Ltd, Innovasynth Technologies and the US-based Austin Chemical Company, Inc.

The alliance aims to integrate the capabilities and synergies of pharmaceutical companies from the US and India to help globalise the pharmaceutical drug development process.

Jasti said experts from the US, Europe and China would be participating in the symposium. They include Leland Weigel from Lilly Research, and Dr Potkar from Pfizer.

"The symposium has been designed to address all aspects of industry and workshops are designed to discuss intellectual property environment, emerging trends in drug discovery and development, outsourcing and manufacturing and the regulatory environment," an official release said. (Deccan Chronicle)