

Biotech enterprise zone planned in India

The Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO), India, plans to set-up a biotechnology enterprise zone, for which it has invited consultants to prepare a detailed feasibility report. The proposed zone will be set up on a commercial basis in fields ranging from designing, technology support, marketing tie-up, park management, funds mobilization and documentation. The project details will be finalized once the experts committee gives its approval to the consultant's report. The project is expected to take-off by October.

According to official sources, the biotechnology enterprise zone will be non-real estate type model – i.e. the revenues will not be from merely leasing out or selling space in the park to prospective investors. Instead, it will come from royalties from the products made. The investment in this venture is estimated to be approximately US\$9.5 million, but the spin-offs in terms of revenues and royalties would be quite high. Discussions have been initiated, on behalf of TIDCO, with various universities in the United States such as Cornell, John Hopkins and Carnegie Mellon. The concept paper for the biotechnology enterprise zone, which was prepared by the Business Consulting Group, envisages having a technology development centre, attracting a contract clinical testing company, providing documentation facilities that will help the investors in IPR related matters and a bio-informatics facility. (Chemical Weekly, 9 May 2000)