

PRESS NOTE

KSIDC signs MoU with IISER TVM to augment Life Sciences research in Kerala

KSIDC, the prime industrial development and investment promotion agency of the Government of Kerala, is mandated to facilitate industrial and investment projects within the State. KSIDC has taken several initiatives in promoting the Life Sciences sector in Kerala in view of its potential for employment generation and economic growth of the State. Establishment of a Life Sciences Park at Thiruvananthapuram is one such initiative of KSIDC. Recognising the need for linkages to institutions for providing various services to companies, research institutions and manufacturing units that are setting up projects within Life Sciences Park coming up in Thiruvananthapuram, KSIDC has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with IISER TVM on 09th June 2020.

The Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Thiruvananthapuram (IISER TVM), established by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, is dedicated to scientific research and science education of international standards. The institute provides high quality education in modern science, integrating it with outstanding research cutting across several disciplines at the undergraduate level.

IISER TVM is establishing Specific Pathogen-Free (SPF) Laboratory and Animal Facility at its Vithura campus for research and development (R&D). The MoU with KSIDC facilitates supply of SPF small animals to companies and firms being set up in Life Sciences Park for undertaking research, both academic and clinical, and testing. This will be a unique advantage for various research and manufacturing companies in the Park, and obviates the need for importing quality SPF animals from outside the State and abroad. By entering into this tie-up with IISER, the companies within the Park will have access to the small SPF animals to undertake pre-clinical trials as part of research in bio-pharma domain.

The state-of-the-art animal facility at IISER TVM is equipped with necessary infrastructure of international standards to breed and maintain small animals in a pathogen-free environment. The facility with 15,000 sq. ft area has a capacity to house more than 2500 rodent cages. It is provided with special air handling units (AHUs) for different zones to maintain sterility and pressure. Temperature (19-21°C) and humidity (40-60%) are regulated through building management system (BMS) controls. The facility will be able to provide animals (including transgenic and humanized mice) with the best of the health standards for pre-clinical testing of laboratory outcomes.

The institute aims to provide excellent scientific and technological support to the research groups beyond the institute. Expansion of the facility envisages extension to immune-deficient animals to allow studies on different disease models (infectious diseases, cancer, diabetes, neurological diseases, drug testing, etc.), and carry out pathological analysis, optical and radiological imaging.

The MoU was signed by Shri Harikishore S IAS on behalf of KSIDC and Prof. J. N. Moorthy, Director on behalf of IISER on 9th June 2020 at Thiruvananthapuram in the presence of Dr. Christy Fernandez, IAS and other senior officials of IISER and KSIDC.
