



# DRDO

**Press Release**

6<sup>th</sup> July 2012

New Delhi

## **WORKSHOP ON GASIFICATION TECHNOLOGIES APPLICABLE TO INDIA**

1. Energy is the prime mover of economic growth. In India there exists a large gap in the demand and supply of energy. Self reliance in meeting the “Energy Security” through indigenous technology is one of the prime challenges for the country in the near future. Gasification technologies are time tested and environmentally sound way of converting energy in bio mass/ municipal solid wastes/ high ash coal (which is in abundance in the country)/industrial wastes etc into useful products like electricity, fertilizers and chemicals.
2. National Mission-9 Programme under Climate Change Action Plan of Prime Minister of India clearly envisages building an indigenous technology on Multi-feed (Coal, Biomass, MSW, Petcoke) Gasification Technology plant for power and hydrogen. A National Centre of Excellence for Combustion and Gasification ‘NCECG’ is being established by Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) at Vehicle Research & Development Establishment (VRDE), Ahmednagar with the objective of doing a directed research towards this end. The aim of the centre is to develop and establish clean gasification technologies for converting various feeds which are normally in abundance in the country but so far not used to generate energy.
3. VRDE/DRDO organised a one day Workshop on the project ‘Gasification Technologies Applicable to India’ on 06 July 2012 at DRDO Bhavan, New Delhi. The aim of the workshop was to sensitize the cross section of potential industries / academies / R&D Organizations in realizing the National Centre of Excellence for Combustion and Gasification (NCECG). This was conducted over a period of three sessions through invited talks by eminent speakers and panel discussions involving experts in the field. It was presided by Padma Shri Dr Vijay Kumar Saraswat, Secretary Department of Defence R&D, Director General R&D and Scientific Advisor to Raksha Mantri. Padma Vibhushan Dr R Chidambaram, Principal Scientific Advisor to Government of India was the Chief Guest and Padma Bhushan Mr Shyam Saran, Chairman RIS

and former Foreign Secretary was the Guest of Honor. Dr S Sundaresh, Distinguished Scientist and Chief Controller Research & Development (ACE&SI); Dr CP Ramnarayanan, Director, VRDE, experts from DRDO, academia and industries participated in the workshop.

4. Dr Vijay Kumar Saraswat in his opening remarks said that the project aims at converting biomass, municipal solid wastes, high ash coal and industrial wastes etc into useful products like electricity, fertilizers and chemicals. This project of Multi-Feed Gasification Technology will be the first of its kind in the world as only Single-Feed Gasification exists as of now in developed / few developing countries. "While it will meet needs of civilian sector also, our aim is to provide green energy for defence needs where it is required for consumption." Highlighting the importance of energy security with reference to defence forces, he informed that armed forces were among the largest consumer of energy, bulk of which is required in far flung areas. Thus, the transport of fuel is a major issue. We need to have technologies to generate power near the place of its consumption and using sources available nearby linking development with the consumption of power.

5. Dr Chidambaram in his inaugural address described it as a great initiative from DRDO and mentioned that this indeed is a relatively cleaner carbon conversion technology and can be devised to address the huge energy demand by strategic sectors especially the armed forces. "If we are able to use material available locally to generate these energies that will be valuable achievements."

6. Mr Shyam Saran mentioned that energy security and climate change are the two faces of the same coin. "Energy sources available to us are reaching there finite limit. The technology of gasification will ensure the optimum utilization of existing resources nationwide to meet the energy security challenges."

7. The Project 'Multi Feed Gasification with Poly Generation' is proposed to be executed as a consortium with DRDO in lead and CII, IOCL Ltd, Thermax Ltd and L&T Ltd as other partners. A Memorandum of Understanding between the partners was formally signed.



**During the Signing of Memorandum of Understanding on “Workshop on Gasification Technologies Applicable to India” at DRDO Bhawan, New Delhi.**

**Row 1<sup>st</sup> (L-R)** Dr R K Malhotra, Director –R&D, IOCL; Dr Vijay K Saraswat, SA to RM, Secy Dept of Defence R&D, Director General –R&D, DRDO; Dr R Chidambaram, Principal Scientific Advisor to Government of India; Mr Shyam Saran, Chairman, RIS and Former Special Envoy on Climate Change to Prime Minister of India and Dr S Sundares, DS, CC R&D (ACE & SI) DRDO

**Row 2<sup>nd</sup> (L-R)** Mr Gajanan Sadekar, Vice President (Tech) Larsen & Toubro Ltd; Dr C P Ramanarayanan, Director VRDE, DRDO; Dr R R Sonde, CTO & Executive Vice President, Thermax Limited; Mr S K Sarangi, Executive Director –R&D, IOCL and Mr Rajesh Menon, Deputy Director General, Confederation of Indian Industry.



Dr Vijay Kumar Saraswat, SA to RM, Secretary, Dept of Defence R&D and DG, DRDO presenting memento to Dr R Chidambaram, Principal Scientific Advisor to Government of India.



Dr Vijay Kumar Saraswat, SA to RM, Secretary, Dept of Defence R&D and DG, DRDO speaking on the occasion.