

CSIR-NEIST Scientists Receives CSIR Innovation Award



CSIR Technology "Innovation" award-2010 being received by Dr Dipak Kumar Dutta, Scientist F, Dr Pinaki Sengupta, Scientist F, both of NEIST and Dr Avinash Garg of CLRI Kanpur (Ex-Scientist, NEIST).

In a special function held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi today on 26 September, 2010 to mark the celebration of 68th CSIR Foundation Day, CSIR Technology Awards-2010 by CSIR in the category of "Innovation" was formally conferred on the NEIST Scientists for the development of process for making "High Strength Proppants". The award was given away by Hon'ble Minister Shri Prithviraj Chavan, Minister of Science & Technology to Dr Dipak Kumar Dutta, Scientist F, Dr Pinaki Sengupta, Scientist F and Dr Avinash Garg, Scientist G in the presence of Director General, CSIR Prof Samir K Brahmachari. The award carried a cash amount worth Rs. 2 lakhs along with a plaque and a citation.

This award winning and patented innovation is a breakthrough for the hydraulic fracturing operations for economic recovery of oil and gas and as far as India is concerned, the developed know-how is the first in the country in this field. The know-how was initially developed at laboratory scale in collaboration with Keshava Deva Malaviya Institute of Petroleum Exploration (KDMIPE), ONGC, Dehradun and was later on scaled up to 50kg/batch with the financial aid of Oil Industry Development Board, New Delhi. The production conforms to the recommendations of the American Petroleum Institute (API). The Proppant utilizes bauxite of Indian origin and the cost of production is very low. As India has abundant high grade bauxite deposits, the innovation can make the country self sufficient and take a lead position in the

manufacturing of High Strength Proppant cutting down on the import and with the idea in view that the oil production activity in the country can be expected to increase many fold in the coming years vis-à-vis its increased demand. The innovation has both huge market potential as well as the added advantage of generating large number of employment.

The work for this technology was headed by Group Leader Dr Dipak Kumar Dutta, Scientist F of Materials Science Division of NEIST and the other members of this excellent innovation included Dr Pinaki Sengupta, Scientist F, Dr Ranju Duarah, Scientist G, Dr Avinash Garg, Scientist G, Mr Umesh Chandra Borah, Scientist G (retd) and Mr Dilip Kumar Dutta, Scientist G (retd). Besides them, two external members namely Mr Gajendra Singh Pundeer and Mr Vinay Chandra Rundwal, both Joint Director, KDMIPE, ONGC, Dehradun were also involved and contributed significantly to the innovation.

Earlier in the day Prof Samir K Brahmachari, DG CSIR gave the welcome address in the celebration function which started at 11.00 am. As a special invitee, Prof. Raghavendra Gadagkar of Centre for Ecological Science, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore gave the CSIR Foundation Day lecture on War and peace: conflict and cooperation in an insect society. The lecture was followed by Presentation of the CSIR Young Scientist & Technology Awards 2010 as well as CSIR Diamond Jubilee Invention Award for School Children 2009 by Hon'ble Minister Shri Prithviraj Chavan. After the award presentation Hon'ble Minister Shri Prithviraj Chavan addressed the gathering. Prof Samir K Brahmachari announced the S S Bhatnagar Prize winners for 2010 and CSIR Award for S & T Innovations for Rural Development 2009