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Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited

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PRESS RELEASE

BHEL further scaling up R&D efforts - Organizes Industry Academia meet to explore potential research areas of collaboration with leading Indian Institutes of Technology

New Delhi, June 21: Aimed at exploring potential collaborative areas for new technology and product development, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) organized an Industry-Academia meet at its Corporate Research & Development (R&D) division at Hyderabad.

Leading academicians from Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) at Kanpur, Delhi, Mumbai, Kharagpur, Roorkee, Guwahati, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Patna, Jodhpur, Bhubhaneswar and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) participated in the meet and presented their areas of strength, possible synergy, nature of on-going research activities and relevance to BHEL.

Addressing the distinguished gathering, Mr. B. Prasada Rao, CMD, BHEL stressed that the company's products have market dimensions with a focus on customer requirements and that R&D projects should align with market needs. BHEL offers around 180 products and there is a need to dovetail R&D activity with marketing efforts. He also mentioned that the country should have protection from cheap imports of inefficient finished goods and we must be able to produce technologically advanced and economically viable products. Mr. Rao further said that in the initial years, BHEL's focus was on absorbing technologies as the company has always remained focused on satisfying customers' needs. Assimilation of technology has been very good and this has made it possible for BHEL to mark its presence in 76 countries worldwide. BHEL today is amongst world's rarest few that have the capability to manufacture the entire range/type of Power equipment. However as the market opened up in the last few decades, the access to technology has reduced. There is a need to develop technologies required for the needs of the country at economical costs. BHEL therefore needs to enhance its development focus by ramping up R&D activities and increase R&D efforts in a big way.

Detailing the R&D activities of BHEL, CMD said that Corporate R&D takes care of basic research and that there are many areas where R&D activities need to be scaled up. BHEL is filing one patent/copyright per day and IITs with their resources can further help BHEL. For the last two decades, BHEL has been working with IITs for filling technology gaps by taking part in IIT Research Parks to ramp up R&D activity. The company has dedicated product development groups in all its units for all the products. Application oriented research takes place at the unit level. A number of Centres of Excellence for various technology areas have been set up to strengthen R&D. Guided by the possible research areas of collaboration and remaining focused on the emerging market needs, the R&D efforts will be further scaled up in identified areas by BHEL.

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