

Intas zooms in on bio ingredients

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THE Ahmedabad-based Intas Biopharmaceuticals Ltd said the company is set to tap emerging opportunities in active biologics ingredient (ABI) and biogenerics. With many of the biological products going off patent, the demand for active biologics ingredient (ABI) is expected to soar in the near future. Also, past couple of years have seen huge market opening for biogenerics in US and Europe. The company is expected to grab these opportunities by offering contract research and manufacturing services to a myriad of clients. The company has plans to make huge investments in R&D, though it would have some pressure on bottom line. Apart, Intas is executing CRAMS agreement for a European client for development, scale-up and commercial supply of a novel bio-therapeutic protein.

Recently, Intas has invested Rs 100 crore to set up a new plasma fractionation plant. This plant is expected to become a base for wasted human plasma (a source of funds for blood banks). It will be later turned into health saving medicine. All these medicines will be imported at exorbitant costs. This initiative will enable the company to provide critical medicines derived from own plasma at the right price for

the domestic needs. This is perceived as a public private participation and government of Gujarat (through GVFL) has come forward to invest in this project, according to sources.

Speaking to Chronicle Pharmabiz, Dr Urmish Chudgar, managing director, Intas, said, "We are investing huge funds on R&D, as CRAMS business needs world class facilities that are in compliance with latest regulatory requirements. This will increase our R&D expenditure. However, good regulation is essential for the good clinical practice. The regulation should be internalised and it can never be a stumbling block. Moreover, the regulators need to enforce reformations in time and adhere to it."

To enter into CRAMS business in biologics, it is necessary to establish and prove beyond doubt that one understands the ins and outs of the biologics business (from both a technical and regulatory perspective). This understanding can be derived from a successful biogenerics business before ascending the value chain and entering the CRAMS arena. Apart, while estimating the current market, there is a tendency to overlap the contribution of contract clinical services and CRAMS. This should be curbed, as contract clinical services and CRAMS are distinct. Also, the players in these markets are different, Urmish added. ♦