

Ref:13(1)/2023/PAD/

May 18, 2023

PRESS RELEASE NO.3/2023

**Heavy Water Board signs agreement with M/s Sigma Aldrich
Chemicals Private Limited, Bengaluru**

Heavy Water Board (HWB), a constituent unit of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), signed an agreement with M/s Sigma Aldrich Chemicals Private Limited, Bengaluru, a sister concern of M/s. Merck Life Science Private Limited, for the supply of Heavy Water by Heavy Water Board for a period of five years for production of Deuterium Labelled Compounds and Allied Value Added Products.

There is an increasing demand for Deuterium Labelled Compounds for applications in various fields viz. NMR solvents, deuterated drugs/Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients, optical fiber, semiconductors etc.

Dr. A.K. Mohanty, Secretary, DAE and Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) emphasized that local production of Deuterium Labelled Compounds in India by private parties will boost the export from India and India can become a part of global supply chain of Deuterated products supporting 'Make in India' campaign. He further added that investment in India for manufacturing of deuterated products will benefit the country with respect to the growth of local chemicals and pharmaceutical sectors; thus increasing supply of high value products.

The Agreement signing took place on 18th May, 2023, at OYC, DAE, Mumbai in the presence of Dr. A.K. Mohanty, Secretary, DAE and Chairman, AEC, Shri A.R. Sule, Additional Secretary, DAE and Shri J. Srivastava, Chairman & Chief Executive, HWB. The agreement was signed by Shri V.V.S.A. Prasad, Director (Operation), HWB and Shri Sreenath Narayanaiah, MD, Merck Life Science and MD, Sigma Aldrich.



(R.K. Vatsa)