

Companies to watch in 2007

In August-September 2006, *BioSpectrum* carried a series of articles about the new biotech entrepreneurs. These companies have been adopting new business models and are the next set of enterprises to look out for. These are expected to bring new dynamism to the biotech industry and hence considered as companies to watch in 2007. These are some of the new establishments that we have considered. There are several established and new enterprises that are also going to do well in 2007.

Company	Reason
Ace Biomed, Mumbai	Ace Biomed is an independent CRO providing a broad range of clinical research services like bioavailability (BA)/ bioequivalence (BE) studies. It would enter the clinical trials and data management businesses as an extension to its present range of services.
Advinus Therapeutics, Bangalore	An R&D driven company, it is focused on the new drug discovery and development of pharmaceutical and agrochemical products. It would focus on consolidating its facilities and focus in the therapeutics segment.
Anamol Laboratories, Tarapur	Anamol uses leading edge technology to challenge the conventional performance limitations of diagnostic reagents.
Biovel Life Sciences, Bangalore	Biovel Life Sciences is a fully integrated biotechnology enterprise, focused on manufacturing and marketing of biopharma products besides drug discovery, development and bioprocess. It is presently working on polysaccharide vaccines. It is pursuing development of molecules for the treatment of cardiac ailments and will launch products in the oncology segment and its pipeline also includes EPO and Asparaginase.
BioZeen, Bangalore	BioZeen, a division of Bangalore Biotech Labs, is a specialized institution, which is creating a base for offering practical training in the field of industrial biotechnology among professionals and students. It is working on offering BOT model (build, operate and transfer) for bioprocess training centers. This will be launched on a global scale.
Boston Biologicals, Bangalore	Boston Biologicals, an offshoot of Animal Biotech, focuses on two major areas—development of monoclonal and polyclonal therapeutic antibodies and on nutraceuticals. It has about 4-5 products developed in the nutraceutical area. It would develop DNA vaccines in poultry and human diseases and plans take up contract research in the area of DNA constructs.
KanHealthcare, New Delhi	KanHealthcare is focused on the clinical diagnostics segment. It is engaged in the marketing, selling and servicing of clinical diagnostic range of products. It plans product diversification and targets to gross about \$1 million this year.
KARD Scientific India, Pune	A contract research organization, KARD focuses on the pre-clinical development of new molecules. It plans to set up a 21,000 sft laboratory to meet US FDA standards and will have sections in medicinal chemistry, medicinal discovery and efficacy and efficiency studies including ADME and toxicology. This is expected to be fully operational by mid-2007.
Lifecare Innovations, Gurgaon	Lifecare is a medical biotechnology company involved in the development and commercialization of controlled release pharmaceuticals, particularly liposome technology and nanotechnology. Its nanotechnology based novel drug delivery system for sustained release of anti-TB drugs has advanced to completion of toxicology studies. Several other novel drug delivery systems are under development and about a dozen patents have been filed.
Polyclone Bioservices, Bangalore	Polyclone BioServices provides R&D services like microarray spotting, hybridization, experimental design and target discovery by applying a combination of technologies like RNAi, QPCR and recombinant DNA. It is the first Indian company to offer microarray spotting in India and a cancer genomics company.
PREMAS Biotech, Manesar	PREMAS biotech provides research-based drug discovery solutions and biomanufacturing under one roof. PREMAS has developed a molecular diagnostic technology for early detection of human diseases and are in the process of filing a patent. It will enter biomanufacturing of specialized proteins and enzymes. Another project in the pipeline is ART-T—Applied Research for Technology Transfer, leading to proprietary biotherapeutics in the area of cancer and other diseases.
RFCL, New Delhi	RFCL, comprising four business units, covers a range of industries including pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, R&D laboratories, food processing, the veterinarians, aqua and poultry farms, <i>in vitro</i> diagnostic facilities. It is setting up a WHO and cGMP certified manufacturing facility at Haridwar for veterinary formulation and diagnostics. It will also be working on the novel drug delivery systems for the various veterinary products, R&D for veterinary formulations and APIs, veterinary biologicals, biotech research reagents, diagnostics, and kits.
RxMD India, Chennai	RxMD India, a knowledge process outsourcing (KPO) company, in the pharma domain, has been instrumental in bringing several innovative compounds to market in the disease areas of Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, HIV, influenza, erectile dysfunction and others. Since January 2006, RxMD has won contracts valued at Rs 2.87 crore and it expects to register 25 percent growth annually.
SilicoCyte, Bangalore	SilicoCyte provides bioinformatic products for various applications including microarray, proteomics, glycomics and other related areas. It plans to provide the computational tools for clinical medicine in the areas of diagnostics and prognostics. Its vision is to have SilicoCyte solutions accepted as the gold standard in genomics and proteomics.
VLife Science Technologies, Pune	VLife Sciences is a knowledge-based drug discovery company. It plans to ramp up its scientific strength to 100. Its molecules are moving towards completion of pre-clinical stage in the area of oncology and it is developing sales channel in the US and Europe to take the molecules to the big and midsize pharma companies. Plans to have its own experimental laboratory.