



RALLIS INDIA LIMITED

Rallis India Limited Acquires Majority stake in Metahelix Life Sciences **Firms up presence in entire Seeds value chain**

Mumbai, 9 December, 2010: Rallis India Limited, a subsidiary of Tata Chemicals Limited, today announced acquisition of a majority stake of 53.5% in Metahelix Life Sciences, a Bangalore based Seeds research Company with a portfolio of seeds successfully commercialized over the last three years. The acquisition is an all cash deal of ₹ 99.5 Crs, funded largely through internal accruals.

Seeds has been identified as one of the key pillars for Rallis under its 'Rallis Poised' growth agenda. This is in line with the strategy of Tata Chemicals to offer the entire suite of Agri-inputs for the benefit of farm community. Having a strategic connect to agriculture, seeds will provide a value creating proposition for future growth at Rallis. Metahelix Life Sciences is the Company's first inorganic foray in the Seeds space providing a strong platform in the entire value chain that comprises breeding, production and marketing of seeds.

Rallis will subscribe to an additional equity of ₹ 25 Crs. to increase its stake in Metahelix to 59.02% on a fully diluted basis. Furthermore, pursuant to the terms of the definitive agreements signed, Rallis will enhance its shareholding to 100% in Metahelix over a period of five years.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. V. Shankar, Managing Director & CEO, Rallis India said, "This acquisition aims at predominantly driving the agricultural productivity and yield enhancement in the country. Farmer adoption of good hybrid seeds is rapidly growing and with this new acquired strength, Rallis will be in a firm position to provide a trustworthy portfolio of seeds to the Indian Farmers."

The competencies of Rallis in terms of farmer relationships and channel partnerships would also leverage the offerings from Metahelix. The offerings will supplement the Rallis portfolio and the robust distribution channel available through the Tata Kisan Sansar (TKS) platform will enable a wider reach. This also is an opportunity to drive the synergies that exist between Rallis and Tata Chemicals Limited.

Elaborating on the business prospects, Mr. Shankar added, "We believe that the revenues from the entity will exceed ₹1000 Crs. cumulatively over a 5-year period. The deal works out to twice the projected revenues of next year".





RALLIS

About Rallis India Limited

Rallis, a subsidiary of Tata Chemicals Limited is known for its manufacturing capabilities in crop protection chemicals and various types of chemistries with ability to develop new processes and formulations supported by the capability to register new products. It has contract manufacturing alliances with several multinational agrochemical companies.

Rallis is one of India's leading agrochemicals companies, with a century old tradition of serving rural markets and a comprehensive portfolio of Crop Protection solutions, Seeds and Plant Growth Nutrients for Indian farmers. The Company is known for its deep understanding of Indian agriculture, sustained relationships with farmers, quality agrochemicals, branding and marketing expertise and its strong product portfolio.

During the financial year 2009-10, the Company had posted Net Profit of ₹ 101 Crs. and Revenues of ₹ 933 Crs.

About Metahelix Life Sciences (MLS)

Started by well accomplished Indian scientists to focus on seed research, MLS has a systematic R&D programme and a team of 50 scientists working in various aspects of seed research. The research facilities are based in Bangalore, Hyderabad and Ahmedabad including many product testing locations across the country. Metahelix has a good product portfolio in rice, maize, millets and vegetable seeds along with good germplasm with many exciting products in the pipeline. It has nationwide sales presence through Dhaanya Seeds, sold through ~1000 distributors and a team of 120 strong field force and agronomists. Metahelix is the first Indian Company to have a proprietary Bt trait, cry1C approved in cotton.

About Rallis Poised (Enclosed)

About Tata Kisan Sansar (Enclosed)

For further information, please contact:

Akshaya Thukral – Rallis India Limited

Tel: 92235 87889 Email: akshaya.thukral@rallis.co.in

Rakesh Reddy / Vaishnavi Corporate Communications

Tel: 98217 35515 Email: rakesh@vccpl.com

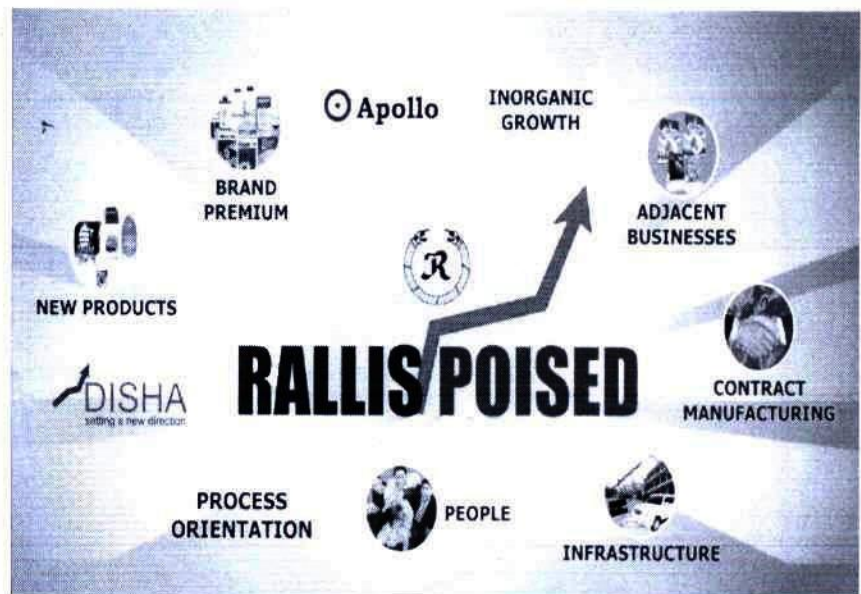


Rallis Poised Growth Agenda

Rallis India Limited is one of India's leading agrochemicals companies, with more than 150 years of experience in servicing rural markets, and the most comprehensive portfolio of crop care solutions for the Indian farmers.

Following a consistent satisfactory performance, the Company launched a growth agenda in May 2007 titled *Rallis Poised*. This was targeted to achieve growth driven by sustained improvement in profits and profitability. To achieve this, required a change in the organization mindset and a high performance culture set to a redefined Vision, Mission and Strategic Target for sustained profitable growth.

At the core of this agenda is People, the critical component of success brought about by an able team living the cultural pillars of collaborative response and expeditious execution. Supporting the team is appropriate infrastructure in manufacturing Units, field and offices. A process driven organization, Rallis delivers performance built on the edifice of strong



processes. The enablers and delivery mechanism therefore are process orientation and infrastructure leveraged by the competent team at Rallis. The *Rallis Poised* agenda has seven growth drivers, viz., Disha, New Products, Brand Premium, Apollo, Inorganic Growth, Adjacent Businesses and Contract Manufacturing. These pillars address key components of :

1. Customer : New Products, Contract Manufacturing
2. Continuous performance improvement : Disha, Brand premium
3. Business Portfolio & Growth: Apollo, Inorganic growth, Adjacent business

APOLLO: Project Apollo is the focused initiative to grow International Business

ADJACENT BUSINESSES: With its strength in Agriculture and Manufacturing, Rallis will seek growth in adjacent areas such as Seeds, Plant Growth Nutrients, Agricultural Services (MoPu, etc), AI intermediates, etc.

DISHA: Project DISHA (Driving Innovative Solutions for Hyper Achievement) is a structured exercise to drive value enhancement and also aimed at achieving cost competitiveness and quality in our business solutions.

Rallis has been pursuing the *Rallis Poised* growth agenda for consistent delivery of improved performance in recent years.

