## **Outsourcing Laboratory Practices**

V.K. Bafna Managing Director TCR Engineering Services



### The World is Flat



### Outsourcing to India...Beyond Information Technology

- Clinical Trials
- Medical Transcription
- Legal Services
- Laboratory Services
- Contract Research

#### Lab outsourcing

 Conducting quality control testing or other analytical services associated for an industrial site, such as a chemical plant, refinery, consumer product, corporate research & technical center, medical, food processor or other business.

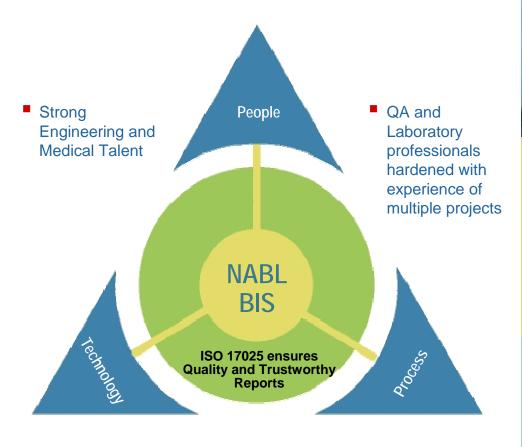


### In-house Vs. Outsource Lab

- In-house laboratories provide essential services, but such labs are expensive to operate and assets are under-utilized
  - Global shortage of good laboratory and QA professionals
- Outsourcing the lab function reduces overhead and operating costs while the company continues to benefit from needed laboratory services
  - Test Standards or Custom Requirements must be created
    - Initial adaptation costs
  - Faster to adapt new techniques to test or research
    - New Government Policies allow Indian Labs to procure state-ofthe-art test equipment
  - Accreditation of laboratories in India by NABL to ISO 17025 standards provide global recognition



## Advantage India



- Trust
- Competence
- Reliability



- Ability to organize diverse teams under one roof comprising of chemists, metallurgists, engineers
- Ability to expand on test reporting to include contract research if necessary
- Reporting can be tailored to meet global or client specific requirement
- Test Samples are shipped under 3 days from USA or Europe

Technologies are constantly changing and independent labs are generally better able to keep up with the latest technological advances. In their third-party position, outsourced labs can also add to the ultimate product credibility via their independent test results.



### Opportunities in the Market Place

- Exploring New Fields
  - Existing Labs must prepare themselves to address the growth anticipated by global outsourcing
    - Improve test equipment, reporting and company talent
- Pricing Models
  - Competitive Global Landscape
    - ♦ Enterprises derive maximum benefit from sending test samples to Indian Labs which offer lower costs
- Training and Adapting
  - Knowledge Transfer between enterprises and outsourced labs
- Increased Revenue Streams
  - Earn more revenue than domestic India-based Customers
  - Newer Business Models to include
    - Product or Material Testing, Clinical Testing, Pharma Testing
    - Contract Research



5

## Targeting Prospective Customers

#### Industry Verticals

 Metallurgical, Pharmaceutical, Chemical, Food and Agricultural Products, Minerals, Ceramics & Refractory

#### Global Regions

- Developed World
  - ◆ USA, Europe, Asia-Pacific
- Middle-East
  - Fewer Labs than in USA or Europe in this region
  - Closer to India
- Under-developed Nations
  - Bangladesh, Nigeria, Kenya,, Uganda
    - Outsourcing for them is a must to ensure quality

#### Reaching out

- Innovating Advertising and Marketing Strategies must be adopted
  - Internet Exposure
  - Advertising in Professional Journals
  - Participating in Professional Conferences and Seminars
  - Press Releases and Public Relations
  - Conducting Training Courses and Workshops



## Challenges and Value Addition

#### Challenges

- Getting Qualified & Trained
  Man Power
- Retaining Trained Manpower
- Obtaining and maintaining sophisticated instruments
  - Financial Costs
- Meeting deadlines
  - Customers seeking faster responses

#### Value Addition to Lab Services

- Providing consultancy in respect of Observations / Test Results obtained.
- Suggesting relevant additional tests / investigations which can help achieve customers QA and R&D goals.
- Using Computer Science to make in-depth presentation of test observations
- Conducting seminars and talks at customers' site and making their staff aware of your activities and how your activities can be of help to them.



## Common Questions Posed By Customers

- Criteria while choosing an Outsourced Laboratory in India
  - The lab's experience in the business.
  - How much experience do they have in the specific kinds of testing you require?
  - Do they have the right kind of equipment to efficiently perform the tests you need?
  - Logistics and the mechanics of delivery must be taken into account. Is the estimated turnaround time acceptable?
  - Is rush service available? Does the lab provide pickup and delivery for your supplier / manufacturer?
  - Does the laboratory have online access to deliver results? Look at the depth of the lab's staff and equipment.
  - Is there back-up equipment available? What kind of reputation and accreditation does the lab have?
  - Does the staff have visas and travel permits to visit the on-site locations



# Questions?

Email: vkb@tcreng.com

