



Biodata of Dr R.R. Sonde

Dr. Sonde started his early career working as a scientist in the country's top research institution namely Bhabha Atomic Research Center (BARC). He topped the entire batch of scientists and engineers and was awarded Dr. Homi Bhabha Gold Medal. In the formative part of his career, he was deeply involved in nuclear energy research, developing technology on Heavy Water Plants while inter phasing with various scientific, academic and research institutions. He completed his PhD during his stint at Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) in the field of isotope separation simulation sciences. He was awarded for his contribution to nuclear energy and science a Gold Medal during the Golden Jubilee award in the hands of then Prime Minister. Subsequently after 23 years of working in Atomic Energy, he was invited to join as Executive Director to develop new energy technologies in the country's premier power generator namely National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), a mega coal power sector undertaking with over 75,000 MW of power plants to its credit. During his stint there, he worked on starting new activities in clean coal technologies which included low grade heat conversion energy, Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC), carbon capture and sequestration and various technologies crucial for energy efficiency and improving the plant performance.

In his current assignment as Executive Vice President and a member of the Executive Council of Thermax, his main thrust of activities is bringing innovation and enhance knowledge in all the existing technologies within Thermax while also involved in the developing new technologies in the field of energy, environment and water. Towards that, his activities can be summarized as follows :

Development of gasification technologies both coal gasification, coal to liquid, IGCC and biomass gasification, development of waste heat to power generation technology in the form of development and integration of Organic Ranking Cycles (ORC), renewable technologies with a focus on solar, both thermal and PV, biomass, geothermal and developing hybrid distributed scale power plants, developing newer technologies using advanced technologies in the field of biomass, material and system integration of building hydrogen based cooling technologies, Fuel Cells, storage, hydrogen generation etc.

He is a Fellow of National Academy of Engineers (FNAE), member on the CII / FICCI Consortium for Power & Renewable Energy, member of DST Committee on Water and many other committees.

He has been awarded the Dr. M. Vishweswarayya Gold Medal for standing first in the University of Mysore, Dr Homi Bhabha Gold Medal during the Golden Jubilee celebrations of BARC in the year 2006 by Hon'ble Prime Minister for his outstanding contribution in the nuclear field, Dr. DoraswamiIChE Medal and Gold Medal from the Indian Nuclear Society (INS).