

AMTZ in collaboration with NABCB, AiMeD forms IBSC to strengthen biomedical engineering skill sector

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Andhra Pradesh Med Tech Zone (AMTZ) in collaboration with National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB) and Association of Indian Manufacturers of Medical Devices (AiMeD) has formed the Indian Biomedical Skill Consortium (IBSC) to strengthen biomedical engineering skill sector.

This is a significant step as there is a huge demand for certified and skilled biomedical engineers to serve medical technology industry. When Indian manufacturers export their products like Computed Tomography (CT) scanner or capital equipment for installation, calibration and servicing, it is mandatory to have a certification which is valid internationally. There was no apex body to provide this certification to biomedical engineers until recently.

Till date 125 biomedical engineers have been certified. IBSC conducts skill assessment for biomedical professionals in more than 50 test centres pan India twice in a month. There are 15 modules in the IBSC assessment. The technology competency score gives weightage to experience, qualification and competency.

The medical devices industry in India is presently valued at approximately ₹30,000 crore. Currently, India has about 750 to 800 medical device manufacturers with an average investment of ₹1,000 crore to ₹1,500 crore and an average turnover of ₹3,000 crore to ₹3,500 crore.

Andhra Pradesh set up country's one and only integrated medical device manufacturing park, AMTZ to bolster medical devices manufacturing which would neutralize import dependency of ₹24,000 crore. The zone is set to have 240 manufacturers and about 20,000 employment opportunities will be created in areas like production engineering product design, quality control, validation and other allied fields of medical device manufacturing.

IBSC has also signed an MoU with the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI), USA, where in IBSC certified candidate will have equal opportunities to practice biomedical profession globally. IBSC is also closely working with Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and has proposed its skill training programs to be included in National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF).

AAMI, a nonprofit organization founded in 1967, is a diverse community of professionals for the development, management, use of safe and effective health technology.

This is a significant development as AAMI has certified more than 7,000 biomedical engineering professionals in over 100 countries.

This will also benefit 2 lakh biomedical engineers and technicians in the country across hospitals, manufacturing units, sales and marketing, installation and servicing units and R&D laboratories. The assessment for certification and skill development will be conducted across the country through pan India assessment centres.

IBSC is a pioneer initiative of AMTZ done in collaboration with NABCB - Quality Council of India (QCI) and AiMeD to establish an institutional mechanism for certification and skill development. IBSC proposes to develop an equivalence system of value-based assessment covering educational training, work experience and competency possessed by practitioners of biomedical engineering skills.

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