

The sonar programmes of the DRDO, as also avionics and electronic warfare systems for IAF fighter aircraft and missiles developed under joint ventures such as the Brahmos represent the most professional approaches for programme completion. An excellent example is the HUMSANG, where an effective association of NPOL (the designer), BEL (the manufacturer) Indian Navy (the user) contributed remarkably towards timely realisation of the advanced sonar system for the Navy. In the Golden Jubilee Year, DRDO has taken this up as a pledge.

M Natarajan, SA to the Defence Minister and DRDO Chief, in his address at launch of the Golden Jubilee activities: stated "In the coming decade DRDO will focus on development of futuristic technologies relating to systems like Multi-role Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft, Integrated Surveillance, Unmanned Combat Air Vehicles, Air to Air Missiles Hypersonic vehicles, Airborne EW, Multi-Sensor Data Fusion, Active Phased Array Multi-Function radar, Unmanned Ground Vehicles, Autonomous Underwater Vehicles and others".

"Rapport with the Services has to increase manifold as also collaboration among the DRDO labs and production centres. The three agencies should close ranks to work as a team and strive for self-reliance in defence technologies. There must be a strong sense of 'owning' the system by all the agencies. DRDO and the production agencies must now demonstrate rather

than assure the user services by delivering projects in given time-frame. The way ahead is to increasingly involve the private sector corporations and business leaders in production of major defence equipments. The participation of our academia must also grow. It must actively play its designated role of seeding futuristic defence technologies and take up directed basic research in their colleges and universities."

"After 50 years of our commitment towards self-reliance in defence, we hope to consolidate all that have been achieved so far and organise ourselves for the coming decades. As part of our aspirations for the next decade, we intend giving a business orientation to our operations. We will focus on new vistas in international activities including joint venture, international collaboration and exports. The joint ventures will have to be encouraged to bring in the transfer to 'sunrise' technologies into the country."

"We are conscious of the need to effectively disseminate successes and create greater awareness of DRDO's tangible and intangible accomplishments. We have to make an impact on society and the country's scientific community in order to attract and retain best talents. In addition, the right ambience in terms of adequate flexibility of operation, autonomy, financial and managerial responsibilities will have to be offered to our scientists. Besides advanced training, career and self development needs of the scientists have also to be met. We will strive for the same."