NRI INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY- PHARMACY, BHOPAL

(Run by Taramathi Education Society)
(Approved by AICTE & PCI New Delhi, Affiliated to RGPV, Bhopal)
Sajjan Singh Nagar, Opp. Patel Nagar, Raisen Road, Bhopal (M.P.) 462022
Tel. No. 0755 - 4085500, 2529800 Fax: (0755) 2529059

Ref: Date 22/10/2026

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU)

BETWEEN

NRI INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY – PHARMACY, BHOPAL, MADHYA PRADESH

(Hereinafter referred to as "NIRT-Pharmacy" or the "Institute")

AND

ICON LABS

(An ISO 9001:2015-certified and NABL-accredited analytical and imaging laboratory)

(Hereinafter referred to as "Icon Labs" or the "Laboratory")

Date of Execution: 22 / 10 / 2026

Place: Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

1. PREAMBLE

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is entered into between NRI Institute of Research and Technology – Pharmacy, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, and Icon Labs, an analytical and imaging laboratory providing advanced characterization and testing services to industries, academic institutions, research laboratories, colleges, and testing organizations.

NRI Institute of Research and Technology – Pharmacy, Bhopal, is committed to promoting quality education, research, innovation, industry–academia interaction, and the development of professional competencies among students and faculty members in pharmaceutical sciences and allied disciplines.

Icon Labs has expertise in advanced imaging, electron microscopy, and analytical characterization techniques. Its services include Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM-EDAX), Field Emission Scanning Electron Microscopy (FESEM-EDAX), Transmission Electron Microscopy (TEM), Cryo-TEM, X-Ray Diffraction (XRD), Dynamic Light Scattering (DLS),

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Sajjan Singh Nagar, Opp. Patel Nagar
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Zeta Potential (ZP), Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR), and Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC).

Recognizing the mutual benefits of collaboration in education, research, analytical testing, and skill development, both parties agree to establish an academic and research collaboration under the following terms and conditions.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE MoU

The principal objectives of this MoU are:

1. To promote collaborative research in pharmaceutical sciences, nanotechnology, materials science, drug delivery, and allied scientific disciplines.
2. To facilitate access to advanced analytical testing and characterization facilities for faculty members, researchers, and students of the Institute.
3. To encourage student projects, postgraduate dissertations, doctoral research, and faculty research activities.
4. To develop technical skills through training programmes, workshops, seminars, demonstrations, and expert lectures.
5. To promote joint research publications, conference presentations, scientific projects, and innovation activities.
6. To strengthen industry–academia collaboration and support outcome-based research and higher education.
7. To facilitate the characterization of pharmaceutical formulations, nanoparticles, nanocarriers, excipients, polymers, biomaterials, and other research materials.

3. SCOPE OF COLLABORATION

The parties agree to collaborate in the following areas:

3.1 Advanced Analytical Testing and Characterization

Icon Labs may provide analytical testing and characterization services, subject to technical feasibility, instrument availability, sample suitability, and mutually agreed commercial terms.

The proposed services include:

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- **SEM-EDAX:** Surface morphology, microstructure, and elemental analysis.
- **FESEM-EDAX:** High-resolution surface imaging and elemental characterization.
- **TEM:** Particle size, internal structure, and morphology of suitable nanoscale materials.
- **Cryo-TEM:** Structural characterization of suitable cryogenically prepared samples.
- **XRD:** Crystalline structure, phase identification, and crystallinity analysis.
- **DLS:** Hydrodynamic particle size and particle-size distribution.
- **Zeta Potential (ZP):** Surface charge and colloidal stability assessment.
- **FTIR:** Identification and characterization of functional groups and chemical interactions.
- **DSC:** Thermal transitions, melting behaviour, and related thermal characterization.

Additional services, including elemental mapping, line-scan analysis, fracture analysis, coating-thickness assessment, porosity evaluation, grain-structure analysis, and other specialized testing, may be undertaken subject to the availability and suitability of the relevant facilities.

3.2 Pharmaceutical and Nanotechnology Research

The collaboration may include characterization and analysis of:

- Nanoparticles, polymeric nanoparticles, and lipid-based drug delivery systems.
- Pharmaceutical formulations, drug–excipient interactions, and formulation intermediates.
- Nanomaterials, catalysts, pigments, polymers, composites, and other research materials.
- Surface morphology, elemental composition, crystallinity, particle size, and thermal properties.
- Materials used in pharmaceutical, biomedical, chemical, and allied research.

3.3 Student Research and Academic Projects

Icon Labs may support the Institute in facilitating:

- B.Pharm and M.Pharm project work.
- Research activities and dissertation work.
- Ph.D. and other approved research projects, where applicable.
- Practical exposure to advanced analytical instrumentation.
- Interpretation of analytical data and scientific report preparation.

Such activities shall be undertaken in accordance with the academic requirements of the Institute and the technical capabilities of Icon Labs.

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3.4 Faculty Development and Technical Training

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The parties may jointly organize:

- Faculty Development Programmes (FDPs).
- Workshops and hands-on training sessions.
- Seminars, webinars, and expert lectures.
- Instrumentation demonstrations and analytical data interpretation sessions.
- Short-term training programmes in microscopy, spectroscopy, diffraction, and thermal analysis.

The schedule, participation criteria, fees, certification arrangements, and other requirements shall be decided mutually in writing.

3.5 Joint Research and Publications

Both parties may identify research areas of common interest and collaborate on research proposals, scientific publications, conference presentations, and other scholarly activities.

Authorship, acknowledgement, ownership of research data, and publication permissions shall be determined in accordance with actual contributions, applicable institutional policies, and a mutually agreed written arrangement.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES OF NRI INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY – PHARMACY, BHOPAL

The Institute shall:

1. Identify suitable academic and research projects requiring advanced analytical characterization.
2. Encourage faculty members and students to participate in collaborative research and training activities.
3. Coordinate the submission of samples and provide accurate information about sample composition, preparation, handling, and associated hazards.
4. Designate a coordinator to communicate with Icon Labs regarding testing requirements, project schedules, and training activities.

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5. Ensure that samples submitted for testing are lawfully obtained and appropriately prepared, labelled, packaged, and documented.
6. Make payments for agreed services in accordance with mutually accepted quotations, invoices, and payment terms.
7. Acknowledge Icon Labs' contribution in publications and presentations wherever appropriate and in accordance with agreed terms.
8. Comply with applicable institutional, ethical, safety, and research requirements.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES OF ICON LABS

Icon Labs shall:

1. Provide agreed analytical and imaging services subject to instrument availability, technical feasibility, and acceptance of the samples.
2. Share quotations, testing requirements, sample preparation guidelines, estimated turnaround times, and reporting formats before undertaking work, wherever applicable.
3. Conduct testing in accordance with its applicable standard procedures and relevant technical requirements.
4. Provide test reports, images, spectra, diffraction patterns, elemental analysis results, and other agreed deliverables.
5. Facilitate technical interaction with faculty members and researchers regarding suitable characterization methods and interpretation of results, as mutually agreed.
6. Provide opportunities for student exposure, technical demonstrations, workshops, or training programmes as mutually scheduled.
7. Maintain reasonable confidentiality regarding non-public information and research materials received from the Institute.
8. Inform the Institute of any significant technical limitations, sample-related issues, or circumstances likely to affect the agreed testing schedule.

Any representation concerning accreditation or the scope of accredited testing shall be limited to the applicable accreditation documentation and services covered by the relevant scope.

6. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

1. This MoU does not create an automatic obligation for either party to provide free testing, training, instrumentation access, or other services.

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2. Charges for analytical testing, sample preparation, specialized analysis, training programmes, and other services shall be determined through quotations or written agreements accepted by both parties.
3. Any concessional rates, institutional discounts, sponsored testing, or complimentary services may be provided by mutual agreement in writing.
4. Payment shall be made by the Institute or the concerned researcher, project, or funding agency, as agreed before commencement of the work.
5. Applicable taxes, sample transportation charges, and other incidental expenses shall be borne by the designated party in accordance with the accepted quotation.
6. Joint research projects involving grants, sponsorships, or shared expenses shall be governed by separate written financial arrangements.

7. SAMPLE SUBMISSION AND TEST REPORTS

1. Samples shall be submitted with the necessary identification details, research objectives, and requested analytical parameters.
2. The laboratory may require specific sample quantities, preparation methods, safety declarations, or additional documentation.
3. Testing shall commence after sample acceptance and completion of the applicable administrative and financial formalities.
4. The turnaround time shall be indicative and shall depend on sample condition, instrument availability, workload, and the complexity of the analysis.
5. Reports shall be issued in the agreed format. Raw data, instrument files, additional images, and interpretation services shall be provided where specifically agreed.
6. The laboratory shall communicate any limitations that may materially affect the interpretation or validity of the results.
7. The Institute and researchers shall interpret and use the results responsibly, considering the limitations of the analytical methods employed.

8. CONFIDENTIALITY AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

1. Both parties shall maintain the confidentiality of non-public technical, commercial, academic, and research information exchanged under this MoU.

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2. Confidential information shall not be disclosed to third parties without prior written consent, except where disclosure is required by law or is otherwise permitted under a written agreement.
3. Intellectual property owned or developed independently by either party before this MoU shall remain the property of that party.
4. Ownership and permitted use of jointly developed inventions, research outcomes, datasets, methods, and other intellectual property shall be determined through a separate written agreement before commercialization or other activities requiring such determination.
5. Neither party shall use the other party's name, logo, institutional identity, or branding in promotional materials without prior written authorization.
6. The parties shall comply with applicable data protection, research ethics, and intellectual property laws.

9. RESEARCH ETHICS AND COMPLIANCE

All collaborative activities shall be carried out in accordance with applicable laws, institutional policies, research ethics requirements, laboratory safety procedures, and relevant regulatory requirements.

The Institute shall be responsible for obtaining any necessary institutional approvals, ethical clearances, and permissions relating to its research projects. Icon Labs shall be responsible for the laboratory procedures and safety requirements applicable to the services it performs.

Neither party shall undertake any activity under this MoU that violates applicable law or the legitimate rights of a third party.

10. COORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Each party shall nominate a coordinator to facilitate the implementation of this MoU.

For NRI Institute of Research and Technology – Pharmacy, Bhopal

Name: Dr. Kuldeep Patel

Designation: Principal

Email: principal.nirtpharmacy@nrigroupindia.com

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Tel. No. 0755 - 4085500, 2529800 Fax: (0755) 2529059

Ref:

Contact Number: 9685096396

Date.....

For Icon Labs

Name: Mr. Prashant Kumar L. Arora

Designation: Managing Director

Email: Prashant@iconlab.in

Contact Number: 9322087004

The coordinators shall communicate regularly, identify areas of collaboration, coordinate project requirements, and review proposed academic and research activities.

Specific programmes or projects may be implemented through mutually approved work plans, quotations, or separate written agreements.

11. DURATION AND RENEWAL

1. This MoU shall come into effect from the date of its execution by the authorized representatives of both parties.
2. The MoU shall remain valid for a period of **three (3) years** from the date of execution.
3. The MoU may be renewed for a further period by mutual written consent of both parties.
4. Any amendment to this MoU shall be valid only when made in writing and signed by the authorized representatives of both parties.

12. TERMINATION

1. Either party may terminate this MoU by providing **60 days' written notice** to the other party.
2. Termination shall not automatically cancel projects, payments, confidentiality obligations, or other commitments already accepted in writing. The parties shall mutually determine the appropriate arrangements for ongoing work.

NRI Institute of Research & Technology
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Raisen Road, Bhopal (M.P.)

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3. Any obligations concerning confidentiality, intellectual property, outstanding payments, and other provisions intended to survive termination shall continue to apply in accordance with their terms.
4. The parties shall make reasonable efforts to resolve outstanding matters amicably before termination takes effect.

13. NATURE OF UNDERSTANDING

1. This MoU records the mutual understanding of the parties regarding academic, research, training, and analytical service collaboration.
2. It does not establish a partnership, joint venture, agency, employer–employee relationship, or exclusive commercial arrangement between the parties.
3. Neither party shall have the authority to make commitments on behalf of the other party without prior written authorization.
4. Any activity involving financial commitments, intellectual property rights, sponsored research, or other specific contractual obligations shall be governed by an additional written agreement where necessary.

14. DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND JURISDICTION

The parties shall endeavour to resolve any dispute arising out of this MoU through mutual consultation and good-faith negotiations.

If the dispute cannot be resolved amicably, the parties may pursue remedies available under applicable Indian law. Subject to applicable law and the relevant facts, the competent courts at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, shall have jurisdiction.

15. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. This MoU represents the understanding between the parties concerning the scope described herein.
2. Neither party shall be responsible for delays caused by circumstances beyond its reasonable control, subject to applicable law and any specific contractual commitments.
3. Neither party shall be liable for indirect or consequential losses except where liability cannot lawfully be excluded or where otherwise agreed in writing.
4. Any specific service-level commitments, liability arrangements, or project-specific conditions shall be documented separately where required.

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NRI Institute of Research & Technology
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5. The parties may jointly review the progress of activities under this MoU and identify opportunities for further collaboration.

16. SIGNATURES

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have agreed to the terms of this Memorandum of Understanding and have executed it through their duly authorized representatives on the date mentioned above.

FOR NRI INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY – PHARMACY, BHOPAL

Signature: _____

Name: Dr. Kuldeep Patel

Designation: **Principal / Authorized Signatory**

Date: 22/10/2026

Institution Seal: PRINCIPAL
NRI Institute of Research & Technology
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Raisen Road, Bhopal (M.P.)

FOR ICON LABS

Signature: _____

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Icon House, Plot No. 52,
Service Industrial Area, Sector-6,
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Name: Mr. Prashant Kumar Arav

Designation: Managing Director

Date: 28/10/2026

Official Seal: ICON LABS PVT. LTD. NAVI MUMBAI