



Aspiring Minds Launches AMCAT–Life Sciences: An Adaptive Skill Assessment for the Biotechnology And Pharmaceutical Industry

August 24, 2011: Aspiring Minds, a leader in employability assessments, in association with ABLE (Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises) has launched AMCAT-Life Sciences. AMCAT-Life Sciences is an adaptive skill assessment which would enable fresh graduates to know their industry-readiness, diagnose gaps and provide a detailed feedback so that they can improve themselves to become employable. This test is a first of its kind in India, designed specifically for the biotechnology & bio-pharmaceutical industry. Being a computer adaptive test along the lines of GRE/GMAT, the test has unprecedented accuracy and adheres to global standards of reliability and validity.

The biotechnology sector in India is growing rapidly at a rate of over 30 percent annually. There are more than 350 companies in this industry with the biopharmaceutical companies constituting 70% of the market. Every year, more than a lakh candidates complete their graduation or post-graduation in basic sciences, pharmacy and biotechnology related disciplines and are in search of jobs in the biotechnology industry. AMCAT-Life Sciences will help these students understand their strengths/weaknesses, which job profiles they fit into and how they can become more industry ready. It shall also help generate college-level, state-level and National diagnostics on gaps in the current education scenario and what policy interventions could be made. The assessed students will form a large employable talent pool and the scores of all AMCAT-Life Sciences assessed students will be shared with the industry, such that they could effectively hire from across the Nation using this standardized database.

Commenting on the launch of AMCAT-Life Sciences, Dr. Vijay Chandru, President, Association of Biotechnology Led Enterprises said "The biotechnology industry would certainly benefit from a well-trained human resource pool it can draw from. Creating standardized metrics for measuring preparedness of students is an important step in this direction. We are delighted that ABLE and Aspiring Minds have come together to create AMCAT- Life Sciences which is such a metric for students aspiring to careers in the life sciences industry in India. This is an important beginning of a new systemic approach to quality assurance in human resources for this sector. Educators should use this metric to constantly assess their programs and improve the scores of their student graduates to thereby improve their chances for a good career start. This can have a bootstrapping effect that eventually serves all the stakeholders."

AMCAT -Life Sciences will assess the students on cognitive skills, domain specific skills and personality traits. The cognitive ability is judged through AMCAT English, Logical Ability and Quantitative Ability modules which have been taken by more than 350,000 students across the country. Many of these students have been able to secure their first jobs with several reputed multinational corporations. The domain-specific skills are tested through one or more of the following modules: Basic Chemistry, Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biotech Lab Techniques. All the students with a degree in biotechnology, microbiology, chemistry, biochemistry, molecular biology, pharmacy and cell biology can take AMCAT-Life Sciences.

“Our goal is to develop an objective metric for employability for the life sciences sector. Such a metric will not only help companies hire scientifically across the nation, but provides both opportunity and transparency to students” remarked Mr. Varun Aggarwal, Co-founder, Aspiring Minds. AMCAT-Life Sciences has been developed in multiple phases in consultation with industry experts and academicians. This includes industry input through discussions with the hiring, training and delivery teams at various biotechnology companies and structured input from academicians. AMCAT-Life Sciences is hosted on Aspiring Minds’ proprietary assessment platform which provides high-end statistical assessment based on the Item Response Theory (IRT). All assessments are powered by robust Adaptive Testing engine which does a multi-dimensional assessment of the candidate abilities using advanced statistical and AI algorithms. The assessment platform is capable of automated content and test delivery management ensuring complete end-to-end integration of assessments and content.

AMCAT-Life Sciences was first demonstrated at Bangalore India Bio. It was highly appreciated by both the academia and industry stake-holders. Currently, AMCAT-Life Sciences is being conducted at multiple engineering and science colleges across the country.

About ABLE

ABLE is a not-for-profit pan-India forum that represents the Indian Biotechnology Sector. It has members from all across India representing all verticals of the sector, thus catalyzing a symbiotic interface between the industry, the government, academic and research institutes and domestic and international investors.

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About Aspiring Minds

Aspiring Minds is a pioneer in the space of Scientific Assessments, Talent Benchmarking and scalable acquisition of talent. A strong in-house research and development team with alumni from IITs and MIT form the development back bone of our patent pending assessment tools. Our state of the art assessment tools have been used across industry verticals to help recruit the right people, develop profile-wise employability benchmarks and assess workforce health.

AMCAT® - our flagship product is India’s Largest Employability Test. Tens of thousands of candidates secure their dream jobs every year through AMCAT. Our dedicated management from IITs and IIMs, more than 110 full-time employees, and a pan-India operational presence have helped leading corporations across industry verticals improve their recruitment process efficiency and the quality of talent being acquired.

Aspiring Minds products and solutions have been adopted by leading corporates including HCL, Genpact, iGate Patni, Mphasis, Ericsson, Sapient, John Deere, Tavant, Tally, among others.

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