ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The author feels it a great pleasure to express his deep sense of gratitude and profound thanks to Dr. A. Prabhakar, Professor and Head, Department of Chemical Engineering, S.V. University College of Engineering, Tirupati for his valuable guidance, encouragement and suggestion throughout the period of research and in the preparation of the thesis into proper shape. The author is great full to Dr. R. Rama Koteswara Rao, Professor and former Head, Department of Chemical Engineering for his invaluable guidance and encouragement. He owes a depth of gratitude to Dr. D Changal Raju, former Professor, Head and Principal, for his valuable guidance and mentoring during the initial period of his research work.

The author expresses his sincere thanks to the management, M. S. Ramaiah Institute of Technology, Bangalore and Sri Venkateswara University College of engineering for providing required infrastructure in pursuing this doctoral work.

The author is grateful to Dr. M.M.Naidu, Principal, S.V.U. College of Engineering, Tirupati, and Dr. K.Rajanikanth, Principal, M.S.Ramaiah Institute of Technology, Bangalore for their permission, continued encouragement and timely help in carrying out this research.

The author wishes to expresses his appreciation to Dr. N.V.R. Naidu, Professor and Head, Department of Industrial Engineering and Management, Dr. Channarayappa, Professor and Head, Department of Biotechnology, Professor G.A. Shareef, Professor and Head, Department of Chemical Engineering, M.S.Ramaiah Institute of
Technology, Bangalore and Dr. G Prabhakar, other faculty members, Department of Chemical Engineering, SVU College of Engineering, Tirupati, Dr. G H Rao, Center for Biotechnology, Dept. of Chemical Engineering, Andhra University, for all the help extended from time to time.

The author’s sincere thanks are due to Sri. Shanthakumar, Dr. Sharath R, Dr. Chandraprabha, Dr. Madhu, Sri Sivakiran, Sri. Lokesh, Dr. Subba Bhatta, Dr. Suguna, Dr. Ahalya, Sri Damodhar, Dr. Bindu, Smt. Sharada, Smt. Veena and all other colleagues and friends who had extended their cooperation to complete this project.

The author is indebted to his family members Mrs. Renuka and Daughter Ananya for their patience, understanding and cooperation, without which this work would not have been completed in time.

Bangalore
August, 2010

Mohandas Bhat S
5/8/2010