

Tata Lockheed Martin sets up metal bonding facility in indigenisation push

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Tata Lockheed Martin Aerostructures Ltd (TLMAL), a joint venture between Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) and aerospace major Lockheed Martin, on Wednesday inaugurated a metal-to-metal bonding facility for the aerospace sector at the Adibatla Aerospace Park near here.

TASL expects to use the 4,700 sq m facility to produce complex aerostructures, and thereby hike indigenisation.

Tata Lockheed is also increasing the indigenisation of C-130 manufacturing. Tata Sikorsky Aerospace Ltd (TSAL), another Tata-Lockheed Martin joint venture located here, will now handle the production of approximately 2,000 empennage (tail assembly of aircraft) parts that were previously imported, according to senior executives



The TLMAL facility at Adibatla, near Hyderabad

from Lockheed Martin. “The new facility and capacity expansion creates new job opportunities for skilled workers and provides on-the-job training. Employing 500 people, TLMAL currently produces 24 C-130 empennages annually. As we make more parts out of this facility, it has capability to double the number of people,” said Abhay Paranjape, COO of TLMAL.

“Given the C-130J’s worldwide presence, it is fitting that one of its core components is the result of a strong global

partnership that we have with India, Tata and TLMAL,” said George Shultz, VP and GM of Air Mobility and Maritime Missions at Lockheed Martin.

“We expanded the scope of our partnership with Lockheed Martin, a testament of TASL’s increasing capabilities in complex aerostructure manufacturing. The aerostructure components manufactured here are an integral part of the world’s most successful and advanced tactical airlifter, which is also being used by the Indian Air Force,” said Sukaran Singh, MD & CEO, TASL.

Phil Shaw, CEO, Lockheed Martin India, said: “We expect to see some orders flowing in from various deals in Navy and other defence contracts. This will mean stepping up our procurement as part of the country’s defence engagement policy.”