

## MKU Moves Towards 6th Generation Armour Technology

**YELAHANKA, BENGALURU.**  
During the year MKU made several technological breakthroughs and introduced Sixth Generation armour technology. Body armour made using this technology is considerably lighter which will significantly reduce the stress and fatigue encountered by modern day soldiers, informed Neeraj Gupta, Managing Director, MKU.

### **How has the past year been for MKU? Could you provide some highlights?**

The last year saw MKU achieve several milestones both in terms of our business as well as technological excellence which we strive for. In a first for an Indian defence company, MKU bagged a contract for the modernisation of the Ecuador police force. This contract is for the supply of body armour for the entire police force of Ecuador, the largest such contract by an Indian company. In addition, we were able to sign another landmark project for the F-125 programme of the German Navy and there was forward movement in the ongoing RFPs of the Indian MoD. MKU also signed contracts with the Gujarat Police and other special forces in India, for supply of body armour, thereby expanding our India as well as Global footprint.

### **What are some of the key strengths of MKU?**

Maintaining the highest standards of quality excellence and leading edge technology are the key strengths behind MKU's success. We believe that R&D is the cornerstone of our success and as such invest almost 8-10 per cent of our turnover towards Research & Development. A fully equipped ballistic lab in Germany and an R&D Tech Centre in Kanpur, along with a team of highly qualified engineers has helped make innovation possible.

We have a large library of over 1,000 solutions covering more than 100 types of threats. Over 1.5 million soldiers and policemen from 230 forces use our safety equipment. We have large manufacturing capacities and state-of-the-art infrastructure.

In addition to being a registered NATO supplier since 1993, our manufacturing facilities are certified to Aerospace Standards AS9100 Rev C and also conform to ISO 14001. Our armour solutions are certified to environmental standard MIL 810G.



### **What are your expectations from the 'Make in India' campaign? How do you see this helping Indian companies like MKU?**

Make in India is a very positive step. Having said that the policy must be understood and implemented in the right spirit. The necessary policy changes to support the Government initiative must be implemented. The idea is to attract investment and encourage foreign OEMs to set up manufacturing units in India along with Indian partners and the products should be for the Indian as well as international markets. This inherently means that there are Indian companies which are qualified and capable of absorbing the inputs



received and deliver products of international quality. The Indian partner should be able to meet the requirements of the OEM in terms of facility, quality standards, skilled labour etc. I firmly believe that Indian industry is up to this challenge and will deliver given the opportunity.

We at MKU are already following this example. Our JV with a German company in 2012 to manufacture wiring harnesses for aerospace and defence is a prime example of such collaboration as envisaged under the 'Make in India' campaign. We are building wiring harnesses for Airbus at this facility.

### **What will be MKU's focus areas during Aero India?**

MKU will be showcasing 'Modulare Schutz Technik' at Aero India. The German-engineered revolutionary attachment systems enable the armour kits to be easily deployed on the aircraft, without affecting the structure/aerodynamics of the platform. This unique process and design keeps the air worthiness intact. The Patented and battle proven attachment systems allow the armour kits to be easily removed for alternate missions like rescue/transport etc requiring full payload capacity.

Complementing the 'Modulare Schutz Technik', is the Sixth Generation armour protection technology developed by MKU. It uses advanced materials and specialised manufacturing processes to reduce the weight of armour solutions by over 40 per cent, resulting in operational benefits like increased useful payload and endurance.

### **What are your expectations from Aero India 2015?**

We hope the Indian MD, OEMs and other users take note of our experience and capabilities. We also hope they understand the technologies available in India and in the enterprise of the Indian industry to meet their requirements and deliver world class products. We also want the international OEMs to realise the enormous pool of talent and skills available in India and start sourcing more from Indian companies, not only to meet their Indian requirements and offset obligations, but also for the global market. We want them to understand - Made in India for the World is not just a slogan.