

Chennai's Munoth Industries' lithium cell mfg facility to start pre-production this Friday

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: City-based Munoth Industries Limited's lithium cell manufacturing facility, whose first phase has come up with an investment outlay of ₹165 crore, near Tirupati is set to start its pre-production run from this Friday at the electronics manufacturing cluster - 2, Tirupati. Union minister of state for electronics & IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar will flag off the trial production of the facility on September 16, 2022.

The factory focused on manufacturing cells for the consumer electronics industry, is a first of its kind in India, developed and operated by an Indi-

an company, Munoth Industries said in a statement.

At present, India imports complete requirements of lithium ion cells primarily from China, South Korea, Vietnam and Hong Kong. The demand for lithium batteries in non-automotive applications is forecasted to increase from 0.3 GWh to 12 GWh by 2030 driven by telecom towers, data centres, grid-scale renewable energy integration and rooftop solar.

"A lithium cell manufacturing facility in India will start working from this Friday. Unlike several other announcements and initiatives in the segment so far, ours will be the

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first hardcore manufacturing facility established by an Indian company. Most other developments so far were assembly plants." Jaswant Munoth, vice chairman, Munoth Industries Limited said here on Wednesday.

The installed capacity in Phase I is 270 MWh and can produce 20,000 cells of 10Ah capacity daily and employ 250 people. The company will start shipping them to companies manufacturing power banks and this capacity will be 60% of India's present requirement. "We can manufacture cells of 10Ah and go lower to meet the various requirements of consumer electronics industry. Complete paradigm of products can be rolled out from our plant," Munoth added.

The company plans to quickly follow up with the construction works for the phase 2 to cater to energy storage seg-

ment by March, 2023 and phase 3 to cater to EV segment by September, 2023 with further investments of ₹635 crore. "Our total cell manufacturing capacity will become 1.25GWh after phase 3 and will employ around 800 people. We have acquired 30 acres of land in beginning itself to accommodate all three phases of development," he said.

The company intends to have a focused R&D centre at the manufacturing facility to develop lithium ion cell products suited for the Indian conditions. This is much needed in backdrop of some of the e-2-wheelers going up in flames in several states across India.