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HNG unveils major glass packaging production expansion plans

An ambitious investment programme has been announced by Hindustan National Glass & Industries Ltd (HNG) that will result in a doubling of manufacturing capacity for India's leading glass packaging producer. Contracts valued at close to Rs 2.5 billion have been agreed in recent weeks with key European equipment suppliers, including Emhart Glass SA, Heye International GmbH, Horn Glas Industries AG, Ernst Pennekamp GmbH & Co OHG and Zippe Industrieanlagen GmbH. These deals are part of HNG's strategy to follow an aggressive growth plan that will act as a catalyst in doubling existing capacity within the next three years through greenfield and brownfield expansions, entailing investments of Rs 25 billion.

HNG's decision to work with Emhart Glass for the greenfield development at Naidu Peta, as well as a significant extension to its Nashik plant has been carefully considered, the glassmaker having benchmarked a series of equipment suppliers over the last two years. A deciding factor was the performance of an AIS machine installed at HNG's Puducherry plant, which convinced HNG decision-makers of Emhart Glass' ability to engage with their firm as a true technology partner. "Due to HNG's growing technical demands in glass forming, HNG chose Emhart Glass as the ideal technical partner" confirms Sanjay Somany, Managing Director.

The Naidu Peta project in Andhra Pradesh was initiated in response to growing demand for food and beverages in the region. The plant's flint glass line will have a daily capacity of 700 tonnes. The Emhart Glass contribution will be four 4 ¼in TG 12-section AIS machines and two BIS machines.

The BIS concept was unveiled at glasstec last year, making these two machines the first of their kind in the world. As part of the supply project, HNG becomes technology partner to Emhart Glass, developing and refining BIS technology to create the perfect fit for the Indian glass container market.

The plant will be fitted with the latest Emhart Glass technologies for high speed, high quality container forming, including the FlexRadar infrared process analyser, Plunger Process Control and Temperature Control System.

Emhart Glass is also supplying machines and equipment for HNG's major extension at Nashik, Maharashtra, where a second furnace of approximately 700 tonnes capacity is being built. The Nashik facility was acquired in 2005 and currently has one furnace and four manufacturing lines, giving an installed capacity of 390 tonnes/day, as well as on-site bottle printing and decorating. For its expansion, Emhart Glass will deliver six 4 ¼in TG 12-section AIS machines.

To strengthen HNG's focus on the development of Narrow Neck Press and Blow (NNPB) technology, the latest equipment will be sourced from Heye International, while advanced annealing lehrs have been ordered from Ernst Pennekamp.

For the greenfield project at Naidu Peta, HNG will install the world's largest batch house, supplied by Zippe and the industry's largest glass container furnace, to be provided by Horn. In addition, the glassmaker plans to integrate technological innovations in the areas of automation, drives and energy efficiency from its technology partner, Siemens.

"In our endeavours to attain excellence, we have been continuously making huge capital investments" commented HNG's Vice Chairman and Managing Director, Mukul Somany. "To succeed in our aggressive growth plan, we are finalising technology and equipment that will provide us with processes to match the best in the world. This will also help us offer quality products to our customers which are benchmarked against the world's best." ■

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