

HAL sets up Strategic Electronics unit at Kasaragod

The foundation stone for Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's first unit in Kerala was laid on August 23, 2008 by the Honourable Union Defence Minister Shri A K Antony in the presence of State Minister for Industries and Commerce, Shri Elamaram Kareem at the Kinfra Park at Seethangoli in Kasaragod district. The Hyderabad based Avionics Division of HAL, the premier aviation company and one of the Public Sector Undertaking Navaratnas, is setting up a strategic electronics manufacturing factory at Kinfra's industrial park.

HAL's Avionics Division is a full - fledged unit catering to the aviation electronics manufacturing a wide variety of Communication Equipment, Radar, Navigation Systems, Mission Computers and Early Warning Systems for various fighter aircraft programmes like LCA, ALH, SU-30 MKI, Trainers and other upgrade programmes. HAL decided to set up a new manufacturing facility in Kerala to cater to the large volume of requirement of these items and to enhance operational efficiency and improve delivery schedules. The new factory will undertake assembly, testing, manufacturing, repair and maintenance of all types of Airborne Computers and various other systems in the future expansion.

The new state of the art manufacturing facility at Kasaragod will be an extension of the Avionics division at Hyderabad and will be expanded to include new projects arising out of Fifth Generation Aircraft production, medium multi role combat aircraft and other helicopter programmes.

HAL will invest Rs.200 crores in this venture with an initial investment of about Rs.70 crores. A total land area of 200 acres has been taken on lease from Kinfra for future expansion. A built-up area of 4000 sq.mt. with all latest and modern facilities is envisaged for the new business unit which will employ 75 personnel directly. The indirect employment through this new defence project in Kerala will be manifold. This unit is expected to generate a turnover of about Rs.70 crores per annum for HAL from the year 2009-10 onwards and additional revenue through repair and overhaul of the systems.

The Kerala government is assisting HAL in setting up this new venture by providing the required infrastructure for the project like laying of roads, pipe lines for water and drainage, etc. Incidentally this is the second defence production facility in Kerala after Brahmos took over the ailing Kerala Hitech Industries (Keltec) earlier in 2008. Both these developments took place after the present government came into power in 2006.