

Hitachi Automotive inaugurates manufacturing facility near Chennai

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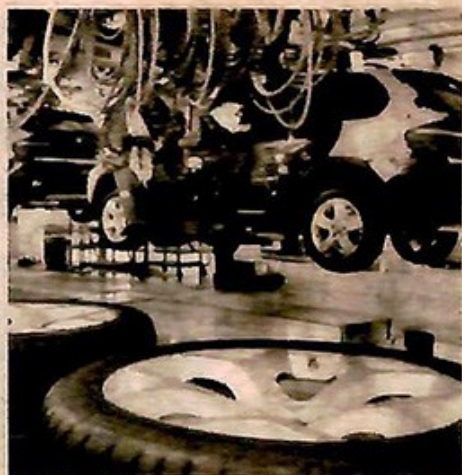
Chennai, 16 April

Japan-based Hitachi Automotive Systems on Thursday inaugurated its new automotive components and system plant near Chennai. The facility was set up at a cost of ₹313 crore inside OneHub, an integrated township near Chennai.

Kunihiko Ohnuma, chairman and chief executive officer Hitachi Automotive Systems, said the new plant is scheduled to begin production of Valve Timing Control Systems (VTCs) and ignition coils in October. The company also looks to expand the range of products going forward.

Ohnuma added the company will focus on new product expansion through cross-selling and global footprint cooperation to acquire new customers and strengthen its supply system for supporting global engine platforms.

He said, in India three subsidiaries have already been estab-



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lished. "While we will continue to utilise our global network to expand business, we also want to accelerate local production for local consumption in order to meet customers needs faster and more effectively, said Ohnuma.

Bradley J Maggard, senior vice president and GM - International sales Division and India Business,

Hitachi Automotive Systems added the company will manufacture two products - Valve Timing Control and Ignition Coil - for both domestic and foreign markets.

"It (the plant) will be globally competitive both in terms of quality and cost," said Maggard, adding the company chose Tamil Nadu since it is one of the major automobile hubs and some of the principal customers are located in the state.

Some of Hitachi's global customers who have manufacturing facilities in Chennai includes Ford, Nissan and Hyundai.

Ohnuma said the automotive components and systems business in India will be strengthened in a wide range of areas, including car information devices and repair and aftermarket parts businesses.

"In financial year 2020, we are aiming for a revenue of ₹390 crore, nine-fold increase from ₹43 crore in financial year 2015 and our goal is to earn top three product market share position," said Ohnuma.