

# Devanahalli SEZ takes wing finally

Anand J and Avik Das | TNN

**Bengaluru:** The aerospace SEZ in north Bengaluru, near the international airport, is emerging as a major aerospace, manufacturing hub. With four plants going operational in as many days, the 1,000-acre industrial park has provided employment to hundreds. What just looked like a false promise couple of years ago has now become the showpiece of Karnataka's ability to attract aerospace companies to the state.

The companies that announced their launch include the Aerospace Common Finishing Facility — the joint venture plant of Karnataka government and central government — Dynamatic's facility for helicopter compo-

nents and Centum Electronics. For long, Wipro was about the only facility there.

"We have attracted component manufacturers from France, UK and US to the Devanahalli aerospace park to contribute to our indigeneous manufacturing goals. We have seen Centum and Dynamatic expanding the facilities here," Karnataka industries minister RV Deshpande told **TOI**. Defence minister Manohar Parikkar along with Deshpande inaugurated the new facilities over the past two days.

Karnataka is home to almost two-thirds of the aerospace manufacturing in the country. Bengaluru, which has long been the home for HAL, DRDO and ISRO, has helped foster an ecosystem of talent, market and assist-

ance for the private component manufacturers to thrive. The government's push can be seen from the fact that it has taken the initiative to build an Aerospace Common Finishing Facility in the park. Spread over 43 acres, the Rs 86 crore 50:50 joint venture of central and state government will help the neighbouring aircraft component manufacturers.

For Centum Electronics this is their fourth manufacturing facility. Spread over six acres the facility has seen investments towards upgradation of lines and technology to the tune of about Rs 200 crore, over two years. It provides full time employment to nearly 750 people and will integrate design, manufacturing, factory testing, quality control and ad-

vanced manufacturing engineering for Centum's defence automation business in India and abroad. Around 95% of these products are exported.

Dynamatic's new plant in Devanahalli will make the main cabin for Bell Helicopters. Dynamatic is a partner for HAL on the Sukhoi 30MKI programme and is one of the largest private defence and aerospace companies. It employs 2,500 people and generates Rs 2,000 crore in sales.

Other companies that are currently operational in the park includes public sector company BEML's unit, Bills Aerospace Components, CIM Tools, Kinetix Solutions and Thyssenkrupp Aerospace, among others.

*(With inputs from Shalina Pillai)*