



Indian pharmaceutical investment

SGD Pharma India's Managing Director, Sardar Akshay Singh (below) discusses the company's recent Indian investment.

Glass International- Your company has recently invested in Unit- V in India. Can you share the details of this project? Can you also share the timeline and investment in this unit?

- Investment in Unit 5 started in 2019 and the initial plan was to ramp up the unit in next five years. Due to higher demand in domestic and export market we were able to prepone our investment and fill up the capacity of this new unit in 2022.

- Over the period of 2019 to 2022, we increased our tubular capacity from 250 million pcs to 900+ million pcs.

- The overall investment for this unit is approximately €25 million.



- All our machines are fully automatic and are installed with 100% camera inspection technology. The products manufactured from these machines are packed in ISO class 8 clean rooms.

- To support our growing customer needs, we have invested on 21 vial machines, 10 ampoule lines, and 5 HPLC vial lines.

- This split of machines will help us to not only increase volume support but also offer a wider product portfolio to our clients.

GI: the new unit meant for enhancing your existing production capacity or will it cater to a new sub-segment/s?

- The new unit is meant to enhance our capacity and support our significant growth in the tubular market in India and globally.

- Our mid-term plan is to also diversify into new value-added products that will further boost our customer and product base.

GI: How will this investment benefit your customers?

- This unit will give strong backup to our customers in terms of capacity as the majority of our clients are also increasing their production capacities worldwide.

- This investment has been made to meet the demand for high quality product for regulated markets and wider product portfolio.



GI: Has the investment led to the creation of new jobs?

■ Yes, about 250 employees both direct and indirect are employed of which 40% are female employees.

GI: Were any sustainability elements considered when deciding this investment?

We have focused on different types of vials machines to give flexibility on job changes; these lines are faster and denser productivity-wise which helps to emit lower CO₂/ton.

Apart from this the company has invested on 1MW of Solar panels to generate green electricity and also in-house oxygen generating plant to further reduce the CO₂ emissions.

During this period, SGD PI has planted more than 200 trees in its premises to increase our green cover to 45%.

GI: Can you comment on the role of technology suppliers for this investment?

■ The key components on forming are imported from Italy and for the rest, we have leveraged our in-house R&D and engineering facility to bring robotic handling, control systems and high resolution imaging for

complete product inspection.

GI: What would be the overall capacity of SGD Pharma in India, post this expansion?

■ The overall capacity of SGD Pharma India would be more than 1.25 billion pcs/year of which 350 Million pcs/annum is of Type 1 moulded glass and 900+ million pcs/annum for tubular vials and ampoules.

GI: SGD Pharma's focus has been on Type 1 glass pharmaceutical products. Do you plan to diversify into lower grade of pharmaceutical glass in future?

■ SGD Pharma India's focus has always been on Type 1 glass in both moulded and tubular.

■ As for Type 2 and Type 3 glass vials, SGD has facilities in France, Germany and China to cater to the global needs including India.

GI: You have recently upgraded one of the furnaces at the Vemula plant. Can you share the expansion details?

■ Our furnace has gone through a regular process of repair in 2022 for which the overall cost was about €5 million.

GI: What is the total market value/ volume of total pharmaceutical container glass industry in India?

Our estimate of total market of pharmaceutical container glass industry in India is approximately €450 million.

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