



## Sundram Fasteners Announces INR 1,000 Crore Capex Plan for Wind Energy and EV Markets

Sundram Fasteners, a leading auto parts maker, has planned a three-year INR 1,000 crore capital expenditure (capex) program. The investment will help the company satisfy increased wind energy and electric vehicle (EV) demand. After three years of modest expansion (FY20–FY22), the company resumed its capex cycle in FY23, investing roughly INR 300 crore so far and the remaining INR 700 crore over the following two years.

OEM orders for EV parts from the company's EV business have increased. The company won a six-year contract worth US\$ 250 million (INR 2,050 crore) from a major international OEM, with peak revenue of US\$ 52 million (INR 426 crore) expected for FY26. The US\$ 375 million EV car order book will get INR 300 crore from the anticipated INR 1,000 crore investment package.

Sundram Fasteners wants its non-auto sector, which comprises the wind energy industry, aftermarket, tractor business, and industrial divisions, to account for 50 percent of revenues over the medium to long term to overcome business cyclicality. In FY23, the aftermarket business earned INR 600 crore, with industrial accounting for half. The company is also addressing energy pricing and variable costs. To reduce costs, it intends to use green energy sources and employ captive power suppliers.



## Sundram Fasteners MD Optimistic About India's Potential in EV Sector and Inspires More Women in Leadership Roles

Arathi Krishna, Managing Director, Sundram Fasteners, addresses women's rising labor involvement and the obstacles they confront in balancing work and home. She expanded the company's female employment from 1 percent to 10 percent and hopes to reach 20 percent soon. To succeed at work, women need home support, including understanding spouses and workplace creches. She applauds the Indian Government's efforts to empower women leaders, who inspire others in business.

Krishna believes that societal and domestic factors are the true working challenges for women. To manage their personal and professional lives, women need social assistance, including shared obligations and support structures. She explains Sundram Fasteners' export market, which amounts to 35 percent to 40 percent of their revenue, and acknowledges the competitive US and European markets, which require high quality and innovative technology.



## Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd Highlights Need for Automation in Steel Industry

Recently, Atul Bhatt, Chairman and Managing Director, Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd (RINL), stressed that automation and robotics have huge growth potential. Bhatt said at the virtual launch of RINL's 'Open Challenge Program (OCP) 2.0', that equipment developed by startups will save energy and improve safety, resulting in a speedy return on investment for RINL. He noted that the Government's focus on infrastructure development has made India's steel industry the world's second-largest and fastest-growing.

The OCP 2.0 program, part of the Kalpataru-CoE (Centre of Entrepreneurship) initiatives, aims to select startups specializing in Industry 4.0 technologies. The CoE on Industry 4.0, a joint effort by Software Technology Park of India (STPI), Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY), RINL, and the Government of Andhra Pradesh, intends to make India self-sufficient in Industry 4.0 technology.

The CoE will feature an Industrial Internet of Things (IIOT) lab, an Industrial Automation Lab with Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning (AI & ML), an Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality (AR & VR) lab, another Industrial Automation Lab with Robotics and Drones, and a third Industrial Automation Lab with Robotics and 3D printing. The CoE will incubate 50 physical and 125 virtual startups over five years. RINL, HPCL, NTPC, BARC, HSY, and BHEL will be helped by startups and industry mentors.



## Sterling Tools Reports 12 Percent Increase in Standalone Net Sales Y-O-Y for March 2023

Sterling Tools Ltd, a manufacturer of high-tensile (HT) cold forged fasteners, has announced its March 2023 standalone quarterly financial results. The company generated net sales of INR 155.10 crore, representing a 12 percent increase over the same period in 2022, when net sales were INR 138.48 crore. Despite the growth in net sales, the company had a fall in quarterly net profit, which stood at INR 5.26 crore, a 30.84 percent decrease from INR 7.61 crore in March 2022. However, the company's Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation, and Amortization (EBITDA) increased 13.69 percent year on year, reaching INR 21.09 crore in March 2023, from INR 18.55 crore in March 2022. The company's earnings per share (EPS) fell to INR 1.46 in March 2023 from INR 2.11 in March 2022. With variations in financial performance, Sterling Tools' share price has increased dramatically. The company's shares finished at INR 423.30 on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) on May 8, 2023, generating remarkable returns of 69.35 percent over the previous six months and an impressive 214.96 percent over the last 12 months. ■