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LMT TOOLS BETS BIG ON INDIA

State-of-the-art Pune facility strengthens India's role in LMT's global precision engineering ecosystem


Inauguration of Pune facility

LMT Tools, part of Germany's LMT Group, has made a strong statement about its long-term commitment to India with the inauguration of its newly expanded, state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Chakan, Pune. The development marks a major step forward in advanced manufacturing, significantly enhanced production capacity, and deeper global integration of its precision engineering operations.

The expansion has increased the company's production capacity by more than 60%, positioning the facility to meet rising demand from the automotive and other key industrial sectors. Designed with future-ready infrastructure and advanced manufacturing technologies, the plant strengthens India's role in LMT's global manufacturing ecosystem.

The inauguration was attended by senior leadership and industry stakeholders, including Oliver Thomas, Managing Director, LMT Group & CEO, LMT Tools; Ramakant Reddy, Managing Director, LMT Tools India; Carsten Storm, CFO, LMT Tools; Raphael Lienau, Managing Director, LMT Fette; and Rajesh Nath, Managing Director, VDMA India.

Speaking at the event, Ramakant Reddy, Managing Director, LMT Tools India, described the expansion as a long-cherished goal for the group. "This expansion is truly a dream come true. For a long time, we envisioned establishing a large-scale facility for the LMT Group in India, and now we have made it a reality. With an investment of nearly €15 million, we have increased our production capacity by more than 60%. This enhanced capability enables us to serve customers across the automotive and other key industry segments like wind energy, aerospace, railways in India. From a group perspective, this is a strong and strategic step forward, reinforcing our commitment to growing the business in the Indian market," he said.

Rajesh Nath, Managing Director, VDMA India, said, "LMT's investment strengthens its footprint in India, especially in the vital automobile sector. What stands out is that most of the machines here are sourced from Germany and Europe – a clear sign of the high quality of tools being produced. With nearly 60% of output exported, this facility truly reflects the Prime Minister's 'local for global' vision: creating jobs in India, bringing advanced technology to the country, and supplying world-class tools to both Indian and global markets."

Industry partners also shared their perspectives on LMT's growth. Alok Jhamb, Managing Director, voestalpine High Performance Metals India, noted, "We've grown along with LMT and will continue to grow further. We see a very bright future over the next five to ten years. India will become one of the key suppliers not just to automotive companies in India but also worldwide. This is a world-class facility, and I'm sure they will be very successful in supplying materials and products globally."

Highlighting a long-standing collaboration, Pravin Shirse, Country President – India & SEA Countries, Oerlikon, said, "We are extremely proud of our partnership with LMT, which spans more than two decades. Built on strong technological synergy, this collaboration has always been powerful. Today marks another important milestone with the establishment of an in-house coating facility for LMT, and we are delighted to be part of this journey."

Dr. Sumeet Gupta, President – APAC & Member of the Global Managing Board, Oerlikon, added, "India continues to be a high-growth market with tremendous momentum, and this expansion comes at the right time. Our support has extended across layout planning, machine installation, commissioning, and workforce training for PVD coating, and we remain committed to supporting LMT as it moves forward."

WATCH: https://bit.ly/LMTTools

All plate cutting technologies under one roof?

Mani Narayanan of Messer Cutting Systems India on multi-process capability, application-led innovation, and India's steel-driven growth


Mani Narayanan

In the world of plate fabrication, the competitive edge is no longer defined by a single cutting process. Today's manufacturers want flexibility, productivity, and future-ready systems that adapt to varied applications.

According to Mani Narayanan, Managing Director & CEO, Messer Cutting Systems India, that shift is precisely why Messer's multi-technology approach is gaining relevance – bringing oxy-fuel, plasma, and laser cutting together in one integrated offering.

Legacy that fuels innovation

Messer's foundation is built on more than a century of industrial expertise. The Messer Group, a 127-year-old, family-owned industrial gas major, operates across Europe, Asia, and the Americas. Messer Cutting Systems, its thermal cutting arm, runs five global manufacturing facilities, with India serving as the newest and increasingly strategic base.

Since establishing operations in India in 2009, the company's local arm has evolved into both a manufacturing center and an innovation hub within the global network.

At its core, Messer's proposition is not about promoting one technology over another. It is about combining oxy-fuel, plasma, and laser expertise with deep application knowledge.

Three technologies, one platform

Despite rapid technological progress, Mr. Narayanan points out that thermal plate cutting still revolves around three pillars: oxy-fuel, plasma, and laser. What sets Messer apart is its ability to deliver all three under one roof, allowing customers to choose – or combine – processes based on application needs rather than market hype.

He candidly reflects on the company's early laser journey, noting that Messer developed laser cutting technology as early as the late 1960s but withdrew when market readiness lagged.

Today, however, the company has re-established its laser portfolio, viewing the current landscape as one of technology substitution, where users are migrating between processes depending on performance and cost advantages.

Plasma's continued relevance

Contrary to claims that plasma cutting is losing ground, Mr. Narayanan sees continued evolution. He emphasizes that technology adoption should be application-driven. Many industries still benefit from plasma's speed and cost-efficiency, particularly for certain thickness ranges and production scenarios. Messer's strategy, he explains, is not to position plasma and laser as rivals, but as complementary tools.

Laser beveling as a differentiator

A standout capability in Messer's portfolio is laser beveling. The company claims the ability to achieve bevel angles of (±) 50 degrees on plate thicknesses starting from 6 mm – performance that Mr. Narayanan says is unmatched.

More importantly, Messer integrates laser beveling with plasma beveling and standard cutting operations, creating hybrid solutions aimed at boosting productivity rather than merely showcasing a single process.

Large-format systems for higher throughput

Machine format is another area where Messer is pushing boundaries. The company recently secured an order for a 28-metre laser beveling system in Qatar. In India, it offers 13-metre shuttle tables – well above the industry norm – and fixed tables extending up to 28–30 metres. These configurations are designed to reduce handling time and improve output, especially for large-plate users in heavy industries.

Mr. Narayanan notes that customer engagement often includes training and process education, ensuring that advanced equipment translates into measurable productivity gains.

Exhibitions as idea platforms

For Messer, trade exhibitions are more than display opportunities; they are platforms to demonstrate what is technically possible. Many users, Mr. Narayanan says, are unaware of large-table formats or integrated beveling capabilities until they see them in action.

The company is currently developing several application-led projects, with new solutions expected to launch soon, including innovations in plasma.

Riding India's steel and infrastructure wave

Messer's growth outlook is closely tied to India's expanding industrial base. Sectors such as infrastructure, defence, shipbuilding, renewable energy, logistics, and transportation are driving steel demand. With India already the world's second-largest steel producer and capacity still rising, the need for thermal cutting solutions is set to grow in parallel.

WATCH: https://bit.ly/messer-m4i

Mr. Narayanan underscores a simple reality: welding cannot happen without cutting, making thermal cutting fundamental to fabrication.

Vision for growth

Buoyed by strong macroeconomic indicators and sustained industrial expansion, Messer Cutting Systems India has set an ambitious target of becoming a ₹500-crore company by 2029, informs Mr. Narayanan. The firm has already expanded its facilities twice and plans further capacity additions as demand scales.

Integration as the real advantage

At its core, Messer's proposition is not about promoting one technology over another. It is about combining oxy-fuel, plasma, and laser expertise with deep application knowledge. That integration, Mr. Narayanan believes, gives manufacturers the flexibility to optimize performance today while staying ready for tomorrow's requirements – all from a single technology partner.

Smart measurement for energy transition

Endress+Hauser India and Analytik Jena India present solutions linking oil & gas with renewables at India Energy Week 2026


Endress+Hauser products on display at IEW, Goa

As the energy industry moves toward lower-carbon operations, companies face a dual challenge: maintaining the performance and safety of existing oil and gas infrastructure while integrating cleaner energy sources. At India Energy Week 2026, Endress+Hauser India highlighted how advanced measurement technologies, digital connectivity, and analytical systems can support both sides of this equation, helping operators create a practical pathway from conventional to renewable energy.

Saneel Shah, DGM – Marketing (Flow) at Endress+Hauser India, noted that the global energy shift is not a simple replacement of fossil fuels with renewables. Instead, he described it as a gradual integration. According to him, the focus today is on technologies that allow both systems to operate efficiently and safely in parallel. Endress+Hauser's role, he said, is to provide the instrumentation and expertise that make this integration possible.

Core of process performance

Flow measurement remains central to Endress+Hauser's offering. The company showcased a broad portfolio designed for traditional hydrocarbons as well as new energy media. Ultrasonic flow meters on display can measure gases such as CO_2, air, nitrogen, and biogas, supporting applications that range from emissions management to renewable gas processing.

WATCH: https://bit.ly/Endress Hauser-IEW

Electromagnetic flow meters were presented with multiple liner and electrode options, enabling precise measurement of conductive liquids across diverse process conditions. Vortex flow meters, widely used for steam, gas, and liquid services, were another highlight. A key capability demonstrated was wet steam detection, including the ability to determine steam dryness fraction – an important parameter for energy efficiency and equipment protection.

For high-accuracy applications, Coriolis flow meters were shown for custody transfer and refinery duties, handling liquids, gases, and even slurry media. The portfolio also covers CNG and LNG dispensing and extends to high-pressure hydrogen flow meters rated up to 1,000 bar, underscoring readiness for future fuels.

Critical process variables

Beyond flow, Endress+Hauser presented a wide range of level measurement technologies aimed at improving reliability and operational control. These include nucleonic systems for level, density, and point detection, as well as free-space radar and guided wave radar solutions suited for both hazardous and non-hazardous areas.

For storage and transfer operations, custody tank gauging radars were featured for LNG, LPG, and other hydrocarbons, including cryogenic environments. Such systems help ensure accurate inventory management and safe handling of volatile or low-temperature media.

The company's latest pressure transmitters, equipped with backlit displays and Bluetooth communication, were also introduced. Wireless connectivity allows direct interaction with field devices, reducing the need for additional hardware. Advanced diagnostics compliant with NAMUR NE107 provide clear status information on instrument and process conditions, supporting predictive maintenance.

Energy sectors

A consistent message across the portfolio was adaptability. Instruments traditionally used in refineries and pipelines are equally applicable in hydrogen, green ammonia, biogas, solar thermal, and other renewable or low-carbon processes. By using proven measurement platforms, operators can adopt new energy carriers without compromising on accuracy or safety.

Digitalisation

Endress+Hauser also emphasised industrial digitalisation. Its Ethernet-APL-enabled devices across flow, level, pressure, temperature, and liquid analysis allow high-speed, secure communication even in hazardous areas. This helps plants transition from legacy protocols to more data-rich, networked environments.

AiMeD flags safety risks

AiMeD opposes any easing of curbs on refurbished medical device imports


Gaurav Agarwal


Rajiv Nath


Dr. Sudhir Srivastava

The Association of Indian Medical Device Industry (AiMeD) has voiced strong opposition to any move to reconsider or dilute policy restrictions on the import of refurbished or pre-owned medical equipment, warning that such steps without a stringent regulatory framework could compromise patient safety.

AiMeD said any policy shift should be tied to a robust and enforceable system aligned with global benchmarks such as those of the International Medical Device Regulators Forum (IMDRF). According to the industry body, refurbished devices often come with "unknown usage histories, inconsistent performance, limited traceability, and shortened life cycles," risks that cannot be fully mitigated through post-facto checks.

Rajiv Nath, Forum Coordinator at AiMeD, said patient safety, clinical outcomes and public trust must remain paramount. He argued that healthcare requires even tighter safeguards than other sectors, drawing a parallel with the government's push for domestic manufacturing in electronics and automobiles. Nath added that several countries — including Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, China, Egypt, Brazil, Jordan and Peru — do not allow such imports in order to protect public health.

READ: https://bit.ly/aimed-m4i

AiMeD urged policymakers to prioritise new, domestically manufactured devices under initiatives such as Make in India, Atmanirbhar Bharat and the Medical Devices Policy, rather than permitting what it described as end-of-life equipment entering the country. For Indian-made equipment, the association also called for amendments to the Medical Devices Rules (MDR) to treat remanufactured or refurbished products as distinct, traceable batches, released only after individual calibration, testing and recall provisions similar to those applied to new devices.

Manufacturers benefiting from the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme echoed the concerns. Gaurav Agarwal, Managing Director of Involution Technologies, said consistent policy support was essential to scale domestic innovations, including Cathlab imaging systems, and cautioned against import liberalisation amid ongoing regulatory enforcement reviews.

Dr. Sudhir Srivastava, CMD of SS Innovations, said high-precision segments such as robotic surgery demand strict standards of safety, reliability and traceability. Allowing refurbished equipment without a globally benchmarked framework, he said, could introduce unacceptable clinical risks and undermine indigenous innovation.

Nath also questioned claims that pre-owned equipment improves affordability for patients. He said transparency on equipment age, calibration history and performance is often lacking, and argued that older systems such as dialysis machines, CT scanners and MRI units may deliver reduced utility compared with new machines used in the same facilities.

Citing trade data, AiMeD said India's total medical device imports last year were about ₹76,000 crore, of which ₹48,000 crore was medical electronics. The association estimated that ₹12,000–15,000 crore worth of pre-owned medical equipment is being traded without regulatory oversight. It warned that legalising such imports without safeguards could weaken domestic manufacturing capacity and leave the country vulnerable during future health emergencies.