

Vadodara: Once Just A PSU Hub, Vadodara Has Emerged As Country's Power Engineering Centre With MNCs And Homegrown Firms Backing India's Power Dreams

Pics: Ashwin Rajput

INDIA'S POWER HUB

Prashant Rupera | TNN

Vadodara is in power engineering sector what Bangalore is for IT industry," is how Jairam Ramesh, the then union minister of state for power, described Vadodara's growing importance in power sector during his visit to the city five years back.

And there are reasons to believe that: Name any big player in country's power sector and it is has presence in Vadodara. From wires, cables, switchgears, rotating machines to large size high voltage transformers, Vadodara has today emerged as country's biggest transformer, cable, power equipment manufacturing hub.

Four decades back, home grown engineering firms like Jyoti Limited and Diamond Group - had started taking baby steps in this city.

While they continued expanding, the likes of Voltamp Transformers Ltd., multi nationals like ABB, Alstom, Siemens, Aeva joined them making Vadodara their base.

Now, two power dragons who are already competitors in China will make Vadodara their battleground to gain share in India's growing power sector.



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Tebian Electric Apparatus Stock Co. Ltd (TBEA) and Baoding Tianwei Baodian Electric Co. (TWBB) - the two biggest players in China's transmission field will now compete with each other from Vadodara.

If TBEA (India) Private Limited is investing Rs 2,500 crore for manufacturing transformers at Karjan where it is developing



TBEA Green Energy Park with ultra high voltage transformer plant, TWBB has incorporated its joint venture with Anand-based Atlanta Electricals Private Limited for setting up a transformer factory on Padra-Jambusar Road with Rs 400 crore investment.

"Baroda has certainly emerged as India's capital of electrical equipment manufacturing industries. This is largely because of the vendor base available here. If you are a transformer manufacturer, all the components

related to transformer manufacturing are available here both in terms of quantity and quality," says Amit Bhatnagar, managing director of Diamond Power Infrastructure Limited.

In fact, Vadodara counts for more than more than 35 percent of India's power transmission and distribution (T&D) equipment manufacturers, according to the Indian Electrical Electronics Manufacturers Association - the apex body for the Indian power equipment manufacturing industry.



Vadodara is also home to an estimated 800 ancillaries supporting the big players.

Of the nearly Rs 20,000 crore worth cables industry in the country, R R Kabel, Polycab, Diamond Cables and now KEC International - counting for half of the total industry size - have made Vadodara their home. Players like Gammon India Limited, Associated Power Structures Private Limited, B M Engineering and Diamond Power Infrastructure jointly count for two lakh tones worth tower installing capacity strengthening country's electricity distribution network.

All these even as MNCs like ABB are expanding their local product portfolios. Soon, ABB which had set up its first manufacturing facility here in 1962, will commence operations from its new facility at Savli, to produce high-voltage gas-insulated switchgear and plug and switch system hybrid switchgear as well as dry-type and oil immersed distribution transformers.

To top it, all the electricity distribution companies (discoms) of the Gujarat Urja Vikas Nigam Limited that have become an example for all other state-run discoms across the country are based out of Vadodara.