

Sapa opens automotive-focused R&D lab in Detroit



The ribbon-cutting ceremony was handled by (from left) Sapa Executives Tolga Egrilmez, Charlie Straface and Egil Hogna, and by Dane Slater, the Mayor of Troy, Michigan.

Sapa Technology Americas is the first facility of its kind in North America dedicated to the research and development of extruded aluminum solutions for the automotive industry.

The new lab facility opened its doors in the Detroit suburb of Troy. Sapa Technology is Sapa's corporate research and development hub. Established in 1963 and with its base in Sweden, the R&D unit has expertise in material, physics, chemistry and mechanical engineering. Sapa Technology Americas, located near the "motor city" of Detroit, represents an extension with an automotive focus.

"In total, we have around 1,000 engineers working in research and with application development throughout the world. This is a new step forward in our work to provide customers with the solutions that improve their products," says President & CEO Egil Hogna.

Executive vice president Tolga Egrilmez, who is responsible for Strategy & Business Development for Sapa, says the company is committed to developing innovative and sustainable aluminium solutions, and the Troy facility brings us even closer to the automotive industry, which is focused on building lighter and safer cars. We want to stimulate the use of aluminum in automotive applications and build on our role as the preferred development partner in automotive extrusion-based solutions. Sapa's automotive customers include OEMs like Ford, General Motors, BMW, Jaguar, Land Rover and Tesla, as well as Tier 1 suppliers such as MAHLE, Benteler, Panasonic and TI Automotive.

PSUs to invest over Rs 10,000 cr in mining sector



Public sector units (PSUs) such as Nalco and Hindustan Copper Ltd. have proposed to invest more than Rs 10,000 crore in the mining sector, Parliament was informed recently.

As per data provided by Minister of State for Steel and Mines Vishnu DeoSai in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha, aluminium maker Nalco, Hindustan Copper Ltd. and Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. (MECL) have proposed an investment of Rs 10,037.50 crore in the mining sector.

It includes Nalco's investment in Pottangi bauxite mines and Utkal D&E coal blocks in Odisha and Hindustan Copper's in copper mines in Jharkhand and Rajasthan.

"Mining sector has been liberalised since 1993 and it is dominated by a large number

of private sector miners. Under the liberalised economic environment, investment decisions are taken by the entrepreneurs based on their techno-economic feasibility and commercial considerations," Sai told the House.

In a separate query on illegal mining, the minister informed the House that a total of 533 FIRs have been filed between 2012-13 and 2015-16 (till January) regarding illegal mining in the company.

Besides, a total of 635 complaints have been lodged in 2012-13 and the first 10 months of the current fiscal.

State governments are empowered, under the Section 23C of the Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act), to make rules for prevention

of minerals, he said. The matters relating to illegal mining come under the legislative and administrative jurisdiction of states.

He added that the Centre has amended the MMDR Act to provide for stringent punitive measures to combat illegal mining.

Illegal mining has been made punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years and with a fine, which may extend to Rs 5 lakh per hectare of the area.

The matters relating to illegal mining come under the legislative and administrative jurisdiction of states.

"Provisions have also been made for setting up of special courts for the purpose of providing speedy trial of offences relating to illegal mining," the minister said.