

On-the-spot report

MKU Ltd: Pioneering excellence in defence manufacturing and global reach



Emerged as M Kumar Udyog in 1985, it did not take long for the company to put their boots on the ground in the defence manufacturing industry. In 20 years of existence till its rebranding as “MKU Ltd” in 2005, the company had made its reputation within the Indian Army, as it supplied critical protection systems like fibreglass helmets, from 1989 itself. In 2003, the company also secured its first international order from the Spanish Army for body armour. Heading all the way to present, MKU has so far catered to nearly 250 forces (end customer is military and law enforcement), in both the domestic and international markets, with more than 100 nations involved. Furthermore, it also has a presence beyond Indian boundaries, with two international dedicated production facilities, one in Germany and while other in UAE. Along with it, it has established contacts with approximately 50+ channel partners and empowered 3 million soldiers and 3000+ platforms with their smart solutions.

In terms of services and products offered, they have more than 25+

products in the Netro (optronics) segment only, and for other segment i.e Kavro (self-protection), they have 4 different verticals (Body armour, Armour insert, Ballistic shield, Ballistic helmet).


Vayu’s Nitin Konde and Rishav Gupta were invited for a special visit to MKU’s state-of-the-art facilities present near Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, each with its dedicated role in the development/manufacturing process of the products offered by the firm, which are planned to be launched soon. The demonstrations also ensured the quality, feasibility and suitability as promised to customers. We closely witnessed the processes involved in processing the raw materials into a finished product, involving complex machinery and serious focus by human brains until the product becomes ready for delivery. The company has successfully manufactured key solutions at much more affordable costs than leading entities in the industry, by also maintaining the quality and finish, as proved by the international certifications it received from agencies, like NATO AQAP, ISO 9001:2015 and more. We also observed the Research & Development (R&D) activities, which aims at testing new designs as well as improving the existing ones, by fixing tweaks or introducing upgrades.

We were also briefed on certain products in the final stages of testing as well as in the development stage. The former includes Aviation Night Vision Goggles (ANVGs) for helicopter pilots, SCH-111T for protection of Sikh soldiers, while latter includes driver night sight system for T-90 tanks of the Indian Army. The ANVGs have been ordered by the Indian Air Force to equip the Mi-17 helicopter pilots. Since years, the monocular and binocular range of Night Vision Goggles are also being supplied to the Army, where they ensure 10,000 hours of life cycle before the tube gets burned, making the system ineffective. The

Sikh helmet is world’s first initiative by any company to offer protective headgear specially designed for Sikh soldiers, who haven’t been able to use the latest ballistic protection helmets being designed worldwide. This helmet has already attracted interest from foreign countries as well, where there is a presence of Sikh soldiers in the Armed forces.

The platform armouring solutions under vehicle protection department is also one of the highlights of the MKU portfolio. The company offer various forms of internal and external (depending on the platform) armour plating of vehicles, for both land, sea and air. Certain number of helicopters, armoured vehicles and naval vessels have already been deployed, with both Indian and foreign customers.

MKU has a legacy of producing and providing a wide range of state-of-the-art products, and which go through rigorous testing before the delivery itself, due to the fact that each system is designed for military applications, hence, there should be negligible room for errors in quality delivery. It consistently receives feedback from the customers, which confirms the effectiveness of the products in the hands of users, while also working on potential issues if raised. The company owns a strong presence in Western Europe, the Middle East and North African (MENA) regions, and it is looking to further expand its footprint.

As observed and described, MKU’s dedication to innovation, quality assurance, and global outreach positions it as a notable contributor in the defence manufacturing sector, promising modern military technology with high-grade quality and proven performance. 

Text and image: Nitin Konde and Rishav Gupta

(The full story will appear in our next edition—Issue 4 Jul/Aug 2024)