

VAYU on-the-spot report

MKU Ltd: Pioneering excellence in defence manufacturing and global reach



MKU's stand at Eurosatory 2022 and 2024 at Paris.

Emerging as M Kumar Udyog in 1985, it did not take long for the company to establish itself in the defence manufacturing industry. By 1989, it was already supplying critical protection systems, such as fibreglass helmets, to the Indian Army. In 2003, MKU secured its first international order for body armour from the Spanish Army. By 2005, the company rebranded as MKU Ltd and has since catered to nearly 250 clients across more than 100 nations. MKU also operates two international production facilities, one in Germany and another in the UAE, and collaborates with approximately 3000 channel partners to ensure smooth operations globally.

Vayu visited the MKU key facilities based in Kanpur, which serve dedicated roles in production, finishing and testing of MKU products. We were introduced with the complex machinery and meticulous human oversight. MKU's products are not only cost-effective compared to leading industry entities but also meet high-quality standards, evidenced by international certifications like NATO AQAP and ISO 9001:2015. The company's Research & Development (R&D) division focuses on testing new designs and enhancing existing products. We observed several products in the final stages of testing, like Aviation Night Vision Goggles (ANVGs) for helicopter pilots and SCH-111T helmets for Sikh soldiers.

MKU product range is divided into two main categories: KAVRO for self-protection and NETRO for Electro-Optical (Optronics) systems, with both categories further sub-divided to serve individual and platform demands



separately. There exists more than 25+ products in the Netro (optronics) segment itself and for the other segment i.e Kavro (self-protection), they have 4 different verticals (Body armour, Armour insert, Ballistic shield, Ballistic helmet).

KAVRO Armour solutions

The KAVRO armour lineup for individual and vehicle self-protection is a primary highlight of the MKU portfolio. Firstly, the individual body vests come in various ranges, like soft body armour, hard body armour, tactical vests and more. The plate carriers, are made compatible to offer both protection and comfort to the user, dealing with threats like direct bullet hits, shrapnel or trauma. The Strike Face armour plates are designed to withstand Level III to Level IV protection, which covers pistols, rifles and most of the small arms (depending on the level).



Speaking of vehicle protection, MKU Ltd offers high-grade protection provisions for both aerial and ground vehicles belonging to military and law enforcement units. Their modular armour solutions use cutting-edge materials like composite laminates, advanced ceramics, High-Performance PolyEthylene (HPPE), and aramid fibres. These materials provide high protection levels