

# Sri City SEZ gets 22 customers, first shipment on September 9

**SajanCKumar**

**Chennai, Sep 1:** Sri City, the multi-product SEZ and domestic tariff zone spread across 5,000 acre on the Andhra-Tamil Nadu border, has roped in 22 customers, including 9 from overseas. "The customers, who have varied business interests ranging from auto components to aerospace, are in different stages of setting up their facilities at the SEZ," said Ravindra Sennareddy, managing director, Sri City.

The first consignment from the production units would be shipped out of SEZ by the second week of September. Andhra Pradesh chief minister YS Rajasekara Reddy, who laid the foundation for the SEZ on August 8, would flag-off the shipment of goods produced at the SEZ on September 9.

While well-known leather goods producer Sergio Leathers and incense products major Devan Agarabatti have commenced production,

Bahrain-based BFG, who is makes metro coach linings, would begin production in full-swing by September. Venture Automotive Tooling of South Africa will start production at its auto components manufacturing facility in next two months' time. Likewise, Italy-based VRV Group is expected to start cryogenic equipment production in next two months. Those who have signed MoU to set up shop at Sri City include Dubai-based Al Reyami - to manufacture furnitures and Indonesia-based Intimate Apparels. A joint venture of TRS Productions, Switzerland, has signed lease-deed agreement for a manufacturing facility at SEZ. The facility which will produce toner cartridges for laser printers has an employment potential of 1,000 jobs.

Allotment letters have been given to AS Cargo Movers for a warehousing and logistic project over 50 acre at a cost of Rs 200 crore. The project would have a

employment potential of 1,500 jobs. TIL Exports (TabletsIndia) has been provided space at SEZ for the manufacture of pharma and nutraceutical formulations, entailing a project cost of Rs 50 crore and would employ 200 persons. Sweden's Lovepac Converting, which is into manufacture of mobile phone components has also firmed up its SEZ foray.

"The Sri City SEZ is strategically located with ample connectivity with three sea ports namely Ennore, Chennai and Krishnapatnam within the proximity and easier accessibility to Chennai and Tirupati airports," he said. The industrial zones planned in the SEZ are auto components, light engineering, electronics (hardware), aerospace, apparel and fashion, renewable energy, biotech and pharma, leather products, logistics and warehousing, IT/ITeS/BPO, sports and toys, gems and jewellery and eco-friendly industries.

"We are also planning to set up separate clusters for overseas companies based on the origin of countries, like Japan cluster, China cluster, etc, which would act as catalyst for companies from the same origin." Meanwhile, the company has entered into a strategic partnership with Dr KM Cherian's Frontier Lifeline Hospital. As part of the MoU, Frontier Lifeline would initially set up a world-class emergency care unit at Sri City, which will grow into full-fledged multi-speciality hospital to cater to the medical requirements in and around Sri City.

Speaking on the occasion, Sennareddy said, "One of our primary commitments is making healthcare available and accessible to the people of the region. While Sri City had several options for partnership for healthcare services, we have chosen Frontier, which is building Asia's first bio-hospital over a 360-acre campus close to Sri City."