

Trade-Technology E-Zine 14
(Centre for International Trade in Technology)

Crompton Greaves buys UK-based PTS

Crompton Greaves (CG), part of \$4-billion Avantha Group, has acquired UK-based Power Technology Solutions (PTS) for £30 million. This is CG's sixth acquisition in a span of five years. Crompton Greaves is engaged in designing, manufacturing and marketing electrical products and services related to power generation, transmission and distribution, besides executing turnkey projects.

Established in 1999, PTS is a high voltage electrical engineering company which provides consultancy, technical and engineering support to regional electricity companies. With the acquisition of PTS, CG will gain significant consolidation in the engineering, procurement & maintenance (EPM) segment in the UK and get access to newer markets. This acquisition is a step forward towards achieving its revenue goal of \$8 billion by 2015.

CG's previous buys during the last five years were Pauwels (2005), Ganz (2006), Microsol (2007), Sonomatra (2008) and MSE Power Systems (2008).

(The Financial Express, 31 March 2010)

Bridgestone to set up Rs.2600-crore facility at Pune

Bridgestone, the Japanese tyre major is setting up a new facility near Pune, Maharashtra with an investment of Rs.2600-crore. Announcing this, Hiromi Tanigawa, Managing Director of the Indian subsidiary, Bridgestone India Private Limited said: "The new plant will begin the production of passenger car radial tyres (PSR) and truck and bus radial tyres (TBR) in response to the growing demand of those tyres in India, which is seeing marked economic growth. The total investment is expected to be around Rs 2600-crore in the phased manner. The PSR production is scheduled to begin in January 2013 and the TBR production in August 2013. By the year 2020 the production capacity is slated to reach 10,000 units of PSR and 3,000 units of TBR a day. We have reached an understanding with the Government of Maharashtra for acquiring approximately 770,000 square metre (8.288 million sq ft) of land at Chakan Industrial Area near Pune".

(The Hindu Business Line, 31 March 2010)

Indian BPO market to grow 25% in 2013

The business process outsourcing (BPO) market in India is estimated to grow 19% through 2013, according to IT research and advisory firm. The domestic India BPO services market grew by 7.3% year-on-year in 2009 primarily due to the global economic uncertainty which led to some price and volume pressures. Gartner said in a statement, it estimates the Indian domestic BPO market would grow into a \$1.2 billion market by 2011 and grow to \$1.8 billion by 2013. "In the short term, market trends such as changing demographics and affluence levels, consumption of value-based services, increasing focus on service quality and the continued momentum of mergers and acquisitions (M&As) bear watching, as their impact is certain to influence shifts in buyer needs and behaviour," said the Gartner report.

(The Economic Times, 30 March 2010)

Now, a computer system with energy-efficient data processing

In what could be called a major step towards green computing, scientists in Germany claim to have developed a system that substantially reduces the energy consumption for processing huge amounts of data.

Team from Goethe University and Karlsruhe Institute of Technology in Frankfurt has used seemingly unconventional hardware, processors of Intel Atom type (instead of server processors with high power) and microprocessors originally developed for netbooks.

Their lower processing power compared to server systems was compensated by the usage of highly efficient algorithms. Instead of hard drives, which consume a lot of power for the mechanics, the team employed solid state disks, which are faster and more power-economical.

Thus, the German team improved over the power efficiency of the former record holders from Stanford University by a factor of three to four. The record pops the question if the increasing hunger for energy in information technology could be strongly reduced. "In the long run, many small, power-efficient and cooperating systems are going to replace the so far used, heavy weighted ones," said lead scientist Peter Sanders.

(Business Standard, 28 March 2010)

Patel Engg bags \$1 bn Mauritius project

Mumbai-based Patel Engineering has been awarded the contract to develop the largest waterfront project in the southern hemisphere. The project, an integrated township in Port Louis, the capital of Mauritius, is valued at \$1 billion. Spread over more than 24 hectares, the project involves residential, commercial, entertainment and real estate.

The project is being developed in collaboration with the Mauritius government and will be executed by a subsidiary in three phases over seven years. The first phase of about three million square feet is expected to be ready in three years.

(Business Standard, 26 March 2010)

Airtel in Africa with Zain deal

India's largest telecom service provider Bharti Airtel is set to become a large global player, with the Zain board, approving closure of the deal under which Bharti would buy Zain's Africa operations for an enterprise value of \$10.7 billion (Rs 49,000 crore).

Currently, Bharti's non-India operations include Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. This acquisition will take its footprint to 15 African countries.

The enterprise value of \$10.7 billion includes \$1.7 billion (Rs 7,800 crore) in debt that Bharti will take on its books. So it will pay \$9 billion (Rs 41,500 crore) to Zain — \$8.3 billion (Rs 38,000 crore) now and the remaining \$700 million in a year from the deal closure.

(The Hindustan Times, 23 March 2010)