

Forms and Gears starts supplies to Cummins

Chennai-based Forms and Gears, Asia's leading fixture manufacturer, will supply Cummins India with specially developed high-precision hydraulic fixtures. These would be used by Cummins to machine its 12 cylinder and 16 cylinder engine blocks.

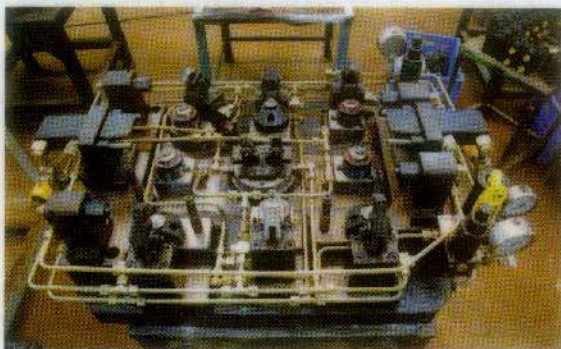
Cummins had awarded this contract to Forms and Gears at the start of 2008 as part of the ongoing capacity expansion and technology update at its Pune plant.

"We bagged the contract from Cummins India in January this year. Due to its huge size, it took us three months to complete the job", said Reji Verghese, managing director, Forms and Gears.

The company has used Vektek high pressure hydraulics in the fixture it is supplying to Cummins. Vektek is the market leader

for high pressure hydraulic elements in the USA and Europe.

"In partnership with them, we have executed scores of projects in India and Japan mostly for precision engine and transmission components like cylinder blocks and heads, transmission and clutch cases. In fact, our block and head fixtures are operating at most engine plants in India, from the Heller machines at Tata Motors to Mahindra Auto and Tractors, Caterpillar, Cummins, John Deere, Hyundai, Ford and Toyota. Our machine tool clients include Mazak, Makino, NTC, Toyoda and Marubeni. We are one of the largest users of Vektek hydraulics in Asia and our design team has detailed interaction with Vektek in the US for the bigger projects." Reji added.

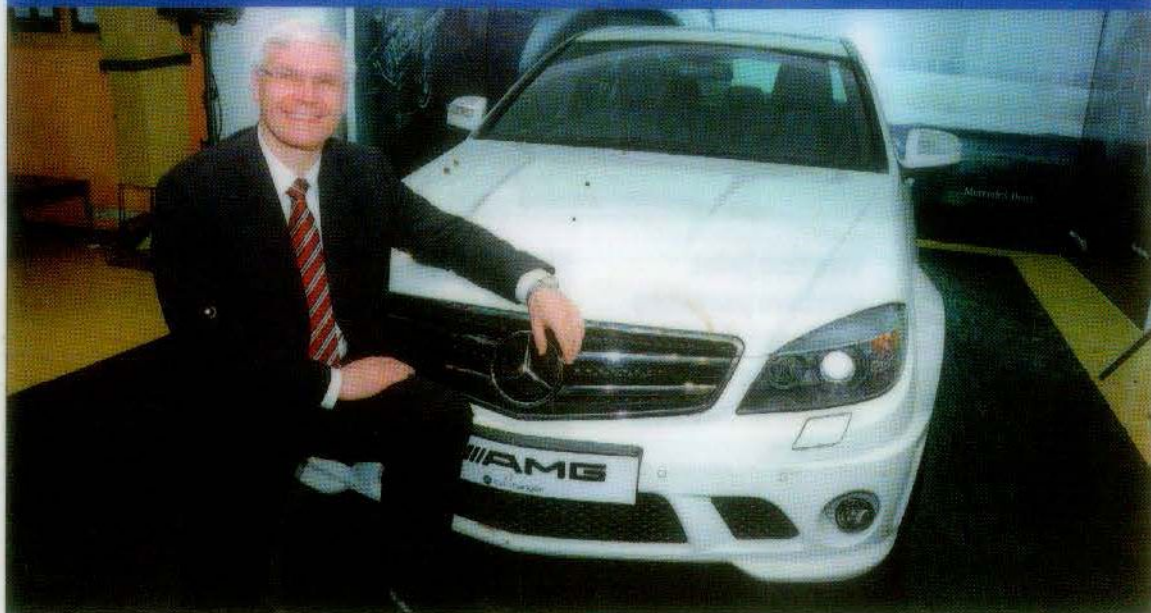


FACTFILE

Forms & Gears is one of Asia's largest manufacturers of machining centre fixtures. It has five jig boring machines, including three swiss dixis, an array of large horizontal and vertical Mazak machining centres, horizontal boring machines, surface and cylindrical grinders and state-of-the-art inspection and design facilities.

Turnover fluctuates from Rs.10 to Rs.15 crore. However given the large projects signed recently, it is targeting a turnover of Rs.25 crore this fiscal. It has spent US\$ 1 million on two large machining centres and a state of the art inspection facility recently. In the next two years it plans to invest a further Rs. 10 to 15-crore.

LAUNCH OF THE FORTNIGHT



Mercedes Benz India showcased its sporty C 63 AMG model at its Mumbai dealership Auto Hangar on June 7. The managing director and CEO, Dr Wilfred Aulbur, unveiled this model, as well as the CLK 350 and CLS 320 CDI as part of the 'Sports Festival' which seeks to highlight the sporty nature of Mercedes cars, which are traditionally associated with luxury. AMG modifies existing Mercedes models and gives them performance and aesthetic enhancements to increase their appeal.

AUTOMOTIVE BY NUMBERS

200,000

Maruti Swift

The total number of Swift hatchbacks sold by Maruti Suzuki in a period of 36 months, since its launch in May 2005. This makes it one of the fastest selling models in the Indian passenger car market.

400,000

Renault-Nissan

The total annual production capacity of the new Renault-Nissan plant near Chennai, that will start production from 2010.

42

Mileage challenge

The minimum figure (in kilometres per litre) to be achieved by vehicles in the Progressive Automotive X Prize contest in the USA. Tata Motors is the first company in the world to have signed up for this contest, and will be entering a hybrid and an electric model. Winners will be announced in 2010.

246,677

Car production

The number of passenger cars produced in India during the months of April and May 2008. This represents an increase of 10.4 percent over the same period last year.