

Force Motors, Rolls-Royce Power Systems ink ₹300cr JV



MICHAEL GONSALVES
Pune

FORCE Motors and the German Rolls-Royce Power Systems have entered into a 51:49 joint venture to produce MTU series engines in India with an initial investment of over Rs 300 crore.

The joint venture company called Force MTU Power Systems will set up a factory to produce a series of engines for the power generation and rail underfloor applications at Force Motors' plant in Pune.

"The joint venture will produce the MTU Series 1600 engines and power generation sets and the first MTU Series 1600 engine to be delivered in the summer of 2019," Prasan Firodia, managing director at Force Motors told *Financial Chronicle*.

Generator sets built and supplied by the JV to customers in India, Nepal and Sri Lanka will carry the 'Force - MTU' brand while those destined for the rest of the world will be sold under the name 'MTU Onsite Energy'. The engines will continue to have the brand MTU.

The Pune-based Force Motors has a dedicated engine facility at Chakan, near Pune and has supplied over 88,000 engines to the German luxury car maker Mercedes-Benz

manufactures commercial, utility and agricultural vehicles.

Rolls-Royce Power Systems' product portfolio includes MTU-brand high-speed engines for ships, power generation, heavy land, rail and defence vehicles.

At present, the multi-application MTU Series 1600 engines are being produced at Rolls-Royce Power Systems manufacturing facility in Germany.

The joint venture will manufacture these engines and the 1600 series generators for the domestic as well as global markets.

"This joint venture opens new opportunities for our series 1600 products...Once serial production capability for the 1600 engines have been established within the joint venture, we will have opportunities to add other applications, engines and power systems to the joint venture portfolio," Andreas Schell, president and CEO at Rolls-Royce Power Systems, said

Force MTU Power Systems will handle sales and service of 1600 series generators for end-users in India, Nepal and Sri Lanka, while Rolls-Royce Power Systems will handle sales and service for the rest of the global markets.

"This tie-up will open up numerous opportuni-