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ELGi making in India for the world

Coimbatore-based air compressor manufacturer Elgi Equipments is aiming to accelerate global growth through technology-led innovation, digital transformation, and a major manufacturing consolidation project, according to Managing Director Dr. Jairam Varadaraj.

Speaking to mojo4industry at INTEC 2026, Dr. Varadaraj said the company is focused on helping customers reduce lifecycle costs through energy-efficient and sustainable compressor technologies while strengthening its position in international markets.

According to him, energy consumption remains the largest contributor to the lifecycle cost of compressors, accounting for a significant share of operating expenses. As a result, ELGi's product development efforts are centred on improving efficiency and reducing environmental impact.

"The upfront cost of a compressor is only about 10–12% of the total lifecycle cost, while energy forms the largest component of operating costs. Our focus is on developing technologies that reduce energy consumption and lower overall ownership costs for customers," he said.

The company is also working on solutions that reduce dependence on oil in compressor systems. One of the technologies showcased at INTEC 2026 was ELGi's water-injected compressor, which eliminates oil while maintaining high energy efficiency.

Another highlight was the ELGi Demand=Match Technology, which can help customers reduce energy consumption by up to 17%. Dr. Varadaraj described it as a scientific innovation that delivers significant power savings without requiring expensive variable frequency drive systems.

Technology drives competitiveness

Emphasising ELGi's approach to manufacturing, Dr. Varadaraj said the company competes through technology rather than low-cost labour.

He cited the example of ELGi's in-house motor manufacturing initiative, launched three years ago. Today, the company produces motors that are more cost-effective than comparable imports while offering higher efficiency and longer warranties.

"We want technology to be the source of competitiveness. The objective is not to depend on low-cost resources but to innovate through engineering and design," he said.

₹600 Cr investment

As part of its long-term growth strategy, ELGi has earmarked approximately 600 crore to consolidate manufacturing operations at its main campus near Coimbatore.

The company plans to gradually shift production activities from its city-based facilities to the larger integrated campus over the next four to five years. The move is expected to improve operational efficiency, logistics and productivity.

According to Dr. Varadaraj, the first phase of the project has already been completed, with further expansion planned in stages.

Journey to the top

Reflecting on ELGi's transformation over the past three decades, Dr. Varadaraj said the company's growth was driven by investments in technology, quality systems and manufacturing excellence.

He stressed the importance of understanding not only how products are built but also the scientific principles behind their design. This focus on engineering science, coupled with world-class quality systems and selective backward integration, enabled ELGi to build a globally competitive business.

Today, ELGi ranks among the world's top six air compressor manufacturers and has established a significant presence across Europe and the United States.

Acceptance in global markets

Dr. Varadaraj said repeat orders from customers are the strongest indicator of ELGi's acceptance in international markets.

While gaining recognition was a challenge when the company first entered Europe and North America more than a decade ago, he believes that phase has now been overcome. "Our brand is recognised today. The challenge is no longer acceptance; it is increasing our participation in more opportunities across global markets," he said. Describing the company's philosophy, he added, "We don't just make in India. We make in India for the world."

Focus areas

Looking ahead, ELGi plans to increase its annual growth rate from around 12% to 16–17%. The company is also focused on strengthening digital capabilities across the organisation, improving agility in responding to global disruptions, and investing in talent development.

Dr. Varadaraj noted that geopolitical events, supply chain disruptions and trade uncertainties are likely to remain recurring challenges for manufacturers worldwide, making organisational agility a critical capability.

Manufacturing ecosystem

Commenting on Coimbatore's role in ELGi's growth, Dr. Varadaraj said success depends less on location and more on how effectively companies utilise available resources and opportunities. He believes the region provides a strong industrial ecosystem and that businesses must focus on making the best use of the strengths already available to them.

WATCH: https://bit.ly/ELGi-INTEC26

ICEMA charts talent roadmap

Reaffirming the Construction Equipment industry's commitment to building globally competitive talent capabilities, the Indian Construction Equipment Manufacturers' Association (ICEMA), with support from the Ministry of Heavy Industries, successfully organised the 3rd CE Human Capital Summit in New Delhi, under the theme "Shaping the Workforce of Tomorrow for the Evolving Construction Equipment Industry – Skill | Productivity | Technology | Innovation."

Bringing together industry captains, HR leaders, and young professionals, the Summit emerged as a powerful platform for fostering dialogue on workforce transformation and strengthening India's human capital ecosystem to support the country's infrastructure ambitions and manufacturing growth.

The Summit commenced with a high-powered session, "CE Workforce from CEOs' Lens," with CE industry leaders including Deepak Shetty, President, ICEMA and CEO & Managing Director, JCB India Ltd.; V. Vivekanand, Managing Director, Caterpillar India Pvt. Ltd.; Dimitrov Krishnan, Managing Director, Volvo CE India Pvt. Ltd.; and Deepak Garg, Vice Chairman & Managing Director, SANY Heavy Industry India Pvt. Ltd. The session highlighted the strategic importance of talent, leadership and continuous learning in driving the next phase of industry growth.

A unique highlight of the Summit was the special session with Gen Z, "Young Voices, Big Ideas: Shaping the Future of Work in the CE Industry," which brought together young professionals and senior HR leaders to discuss changing workplace expectations, career aspirations and the role of purpose-driven organizations in attracting and nurturing the next generation of talent.

Cross-industry insights on creating resilient and future-ready organizations were shared during a fireside chat with HR leaders from the automotive sector, underscoring the increasing convergence of talent strategies across manufacturing sectors.

The industry leaders deliberated on the impact of emerging technologies, digital transformation, evolving skill requirements and the imperative of fostering a culture of continuous learning to build a globally competitive workforce.

The day concluded with an inspiring keynote by legendary Indian hockey goalkeeper and former national coach Mir Ranjan Negi, who shared powerful lessons on resilience, leadership and teamwork, drawing parallels between sports and organizational excellence.

He said "Champions are not defined by the setbacks they face, but by their ability to rise above them. Whether in sports or business, success is built on trust, discipline, teamwork and the courage to keep moving forward despite adversity. Great teams are created when individuals unite around a common purpose and inspire each other to achieve excellence."

The 3rd CE Human Capital Summit reinforced the Indian Construction Equipment industry's collective resolve to create a skilled, inclusive and innovation-driven workforce ecosystem that will not only support India's infrastructure-led growth but also strengthen the country's position as a global hub for manufacturing excellence.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Shetty said: "India's aspiration of becoming a global manufacturing powerhouse and achieving world-class infrastructure standards will require equally world-class human capital. As technology and innovation redefine the Construction Equipment industry, our greatest differentiator will continue to be our people. Through initiatives such as the CE Human Capital Summit, ICEMA is committed to fostering a culture of continuous learning, leadership development and collaboration to build a workforce that is skilled, agile and future-ready. India has a deep pool of talent. We must create opportunities that power India's growth and let Indian talent shine globally."

Mr. Vivekanand said: "Human capital is at the heart of the construction equipment industry's transformation journey. Preparing the workforce of tomorrow calls for deeper collaboration between industry, academia and policymakers, and a shared commitment to developing future-ready talent. The CE Human Capital Summit has evolved into an important platform for shaping these conversations and driving meaningful action."

READ: https://bit.ly/icema-m4i

HARTING GOES FOR HYDROGEN TECHNOLOGY

The HARTING Technology Group has commissioned a new fuel cell plant in Espelkamp, Germany. The pilot plant from the Bavarian manufacturer Reverion complements the existing biogas and photovoltaic plants. Initially, the plant will convert locally produced biogas directly into electricity, thereby making the energy supply at the Espelkamp site even more efficient and climate-neutral.

"The plant complements our energy management perfectly," says Philip Harting, CEO of the HARTING Technology Group. "It is not just another building block in climate-neutral production. It also enables us to maintain a sustainable and resilient energy supply during shortages or at times of peak demand."

In future, the fuel cell plant is also set to temporarily store the renewable energy generated in the form of green hydrogen and convert it back into usable energy when needed. The particular advantage of Reverion technology lies in its exceptionally high efficiency across the entire energy cycle.

Whilst many conventional solutions with separate electrolysers, gas storage and reverse power output recover only 40 to 50 per cent of the energy used, Reverion achieves a significantly higher electrical efficiency when reconverting hydrogen back into electricity. The so-called round-trip efficiency – that is, the path from electricity to hydrogen and back to electricity – is up to 75 per cent. An additional highlight: energy that is not converted into electricity can be used as process heat in the biogas plant to maintain fermentation.

This is made possible by reversible high-temperature technology, the elimination of combustion, and the integration of all conversion steps into a single plant, thereby significantly reducing energy losses.

Sven Oßenbrink, Vice President of Corporate Real Estate Management & Facility Management at HARTING, emphasises: "The Reverion plant is ideally integrated into our existing infrastructure and can be incorporated into energy and load management via defined interfaces. It is precisely this transparency and controllability – from power input to return feed-in – that is of central importance for the safety of our operation and further development of our energy system."

In the current phase of development, HARTING is testing various system configurations to determine the appropriate storage capacity and application for future scaling. Technically, the system is designed for a power input of up to 250 kilowatts in electrolysis mode and a reverse power output of up to 100 kilowatts in fuel cell mode. It currently covers around 3 per cent of the energy demand at the Espelkamp site, thereby complementing the existing energy infrastructure. The electricity generated is used in production and administration at plants 2, 3a, 3b and 7.

The plant currently plays a minor role in addressing bottlenecks or peak loads. However, looking ahead, the technology opens up new possibilities for flexible and fail-safe load management, particularly when scaled up.

HARTING in action

The Reverion plant utilises HARTING connectors from the Han portfolio – specifically Han HPR housings and Han-Modular inserts. These provide high-performance, robust yet flexible interfaces for signals, data and power within the plant. Thanks to the modular design, different transmission media can be combined within a single connector and securely integrated. This reliably ensures the seamless interaction of all systems.

"We are delighted that HARTING is convinced by our technology and is using it in its own energy system," says Maximilian Schmitt, Head of Sales & Marketing at Reverion. "The project in Espelkamp demonstrates that our reversible technology not only achieves high efficiency levels but can also be integrated into existing industrial infrastructures in a practical and reliable manner. The collaboration with HARTING is a strong reference project for us and provides an important impetus for the further scaling of our technology."

READ: https://bit.ly/harting-m4i

Mastercam to introduce CAD/CAM Education to UP Schools

Mastercam India announced the signing of the MoU between the Uttar Pradesh Government — Secondary Education Department (Samagra Shiksha, Secondary) — and the consortium led by NELCO Ltd (A Tata Enterprise), comprising leading global brands including Mastercam, Yaskawa, 3D Systems, and Ace Designers, to upskill young learners in Design, Robotics, Electronics, Additive Manufacturing & Drone Technologies.

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed on Saturday, 23rd May, at the Directorate of Secondary Education, Lucknow, in the presence of Parth Sarathi Sen Sharma, Additional Chief Secretary, Basic and Secondary Education, Government of Uttar Pradesh, and Monika Rani, Director General, School Education, Government of Uttar Pradesh.

The project is aligned with the National Education Policy 2020, the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF), and the Skill India Mission, with the objective of developing innovation, problem-solving ability, technical efficiency, and entrepreneurship skills among students so that they can become competitive in the future global economy.

Under this landmark initiative — launched under the leadership of Chief Minister Shri Yogi Adityanath — advanced DREAM Labs will be established in 600 government secondary and higher secondary schools across all 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh, operating through a Hub-and-Spoke model comprising 150 Hub schools and 450 Spoke schools. The rollout will be executed in three phases:

These DREAM Labs will be developed as modern innovation and skill development centres, where students from Classes 9 to 12 will receive practical training in advanced technologies including Artificial Intelligence (AI), Robotics, Internet of Things (IoT), 3D Printing, Advanced Manufacturing (CAD/CAM), Battery-Operated Electric Vehicles, Electronics, Agricultural Science, Renewable Energy, Drone Technology, and Design Thinking.

Mastercam India will provide curricula and software for Advanced Manufacturing in CAD/CAM for young learners in Grades 9 and 10 at NSQF Level 3, and Grades 11 and 12 at NSQF Level 4. This initiative intends to empower learners with industry-ready vocational training using globally acclaimed curricula, hands-on experience, and machineries especially curated for the benefit of young learners — both in terms of safety as well as for ease of learning and application.

The project is aligned with the National Education Policy 2020, the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF), and the Skill India Mission, with the objective of developing innovation, problem-solving ability, technical efficiency, and entrepreneurship skills among students so that they can become competitive in the future global economy. Under the five-year partnership model, the industrial consortium led by NELCO Ltd will provide advanced machinery, digital platforms, software, and maintenance support. Industry experts will also train students and ensure capacity building of teachers, so that the model can become self-reliant in the long run.

Inaugurating the project commencement, Mr. Sen Sharma laid down three outcomes for the initiative — Empowerment, Entrepreneurship, and Employment. Addressing the consortium and Education Department officials, he said: "This agreement is not just a project, but an investment in the future of Uttar Pradesh's youth. Considering the rapidly changing industrial requirements, it is the need of the hour to equip students with Industry 4.0-based skills. Dream Labs will become a strong medium in this direction, where students will gain practical and employment-oriented skills along with traditional education."

Ms. Monika Rani in her address said: "This initiative will give a new direction to vocational education. Just as a strong beginning is important, it is equally necessary to take it towards successful implementation, especially in aspirational districts." She laid special emphasis on the effective operation of the Hub-and-Spoke model, installation of machinery, quality of trainers, regular attendance of students, and result-based monitoring.

Commenting on the occasion, Vineet Seth added: "It is the need of the hour to enable vocational education at the secondary and higher secondary school levels, similar to how it is prevalent in mature manufacturing economies across the world. The vision of 2047 Viksit Bharat can bear fruit only when we sow the seeds of manufacturing enablement today, across all levels of learner adaptability. We have worked very closely with over 10 State Governments and across 715+ Government ITIs and Polytechnics to empower ITI students to be job-ready at the end of their training — and we are carrying over this expertise to the DREAM LABS project in Uttar Pradesh. In the US, school students used Mastercam to machine a part for NASA — which went to space — thereby bringing a sense of pride and accomplishment to the students who were a part of this project in their school."

READ: https://bit.ly/mastercam-m4i