

Ashok Leyland setting up EV line after major order

G Balachandar
Chennai

Ashok Leyland is establishing a new manufacturing line at its Hosur plant to produce medium and heavy electric trucks, with an initial annual capacity of 5,000 units.

The move comes after securing India's largest e-truck order from Billion Electric Mobility for 180 electric trucks. The leading truck and bus manufacturer is also in talks with various companies to secure additional orders, signalling a growing interest in battery-powered vehicles in the big truck segment.

DELIVERIES BEGIN

On Monday, Ashok Leyland began deliveries from the ₹150-crore order from Billion Electric Mobility, which includes 135 Boss electric in-

termediate commercial vehicles (ICVs) and 45 Avtr 55-tonne electric tractors.

"This is likely one of the largest single orders for electric trucks in India," said Shenu Agarwal, MD & CEO of Ashok Leyland.

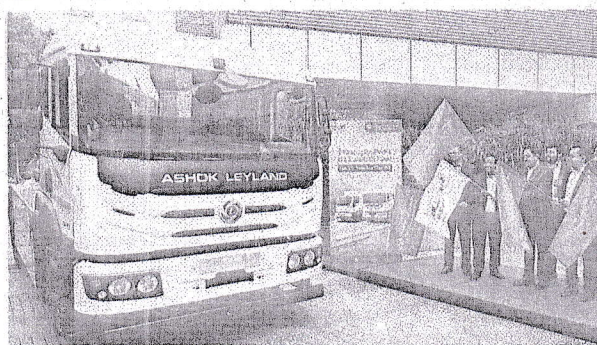
Boss trucks, with a payload capacity of 7 to 10 tonnes, offer a range of over 200 km, while the Avtr 55-tonne electric tractors are powered by a 300-kWh battery pack and a 220-kW motor.

FLEXIBLE RANGE

The range is flexible, depending on battery size, and the modular design of Boss allows for battery capacity adjustments.

Ashok Leyland collaborates closely with customers to customise the truck's specifications based on usage requirements.

Agarwal confirmed that



EV PUSH. Shenu Agarwal, MD and CEO, Ashok Leyland; and Kartikey Hariyani, Founder-CEO, Billion E-Mobility, Chargezone, flagging off EV trucks in Chennai BLUJY GHOSH

the company is setting up a dedicated electric truck assembly line at its Hosur facility, which will also produce alternative fuel trucks.

The line is expected to be operational by Q4 of this fiscal year, with an initial capacity of 5,000 vehicles per year, scalable based on demand. Switch Mobility,

Ashok Leyland's EV arm, currently produces small electric commercial vehicles at the Hosur plant. Billion Electric Mobility, part of Group BillionE and an e-mobility-as-a-service provider in partnership with group company ChargeZone will deploy Ashok Leyland's electric trucks for intercity lo-

gistics, starting with routes between Bengaluru and Chennai. "The focus is on intercity logistics, not just last-mile deliveries. Our Boss 14-tonne and 19-tonne electric trucks will serve routes like Bengaluru-Pune, Ahmedabad-Mumbai, and Chennai-Vijayawada."

"We plan to expand these routes, and set up charging infrastructure along highways to support fleet operators," said Kartikey Hariyani, Founder & CEO of Billion E-Mobility & ChargeZone.

CHARGING STATIONS

ChargeZone is setting up supercharging stations every 100-150 km, with stations already operational on routes such as Bengaluru-Chennai and Hyderabad-Vijayawada.

These stations offer 180-240 kW supercharging, vital for commercial EVs.