

Ashok Leyland's Lucknow EV manufacturing plant to be inaugurated in 30-60 days, says MD

Our Bureau
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Ashok Leyland is expected to inaugurate its electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing plant in Lucknow in the next 30-60 days, said its MD and CEO Shenu Agarwal.

With an initial annual capacity to manufacture 2,500 buses, the facility mainly focus on electric buses.

However, the way it has been constructed, the facility can produce any type of buses, including electric, diesel or alternate fuel, he told newsmen while discussing the company's second quarter financial results.



Shenu Agarwal,
MD and CEO, Ashok Leyland

On Switch Mobility's global operations, Agarwal said, "We have decided to shift the manufacturing operations of our Switch buses

from the UK to RAK in the UAE. We are in the process of investing in the RAK factory to be able to make the buses for European and the UK markets," he said.

RAK is the right location not just in terms of access to the GCC market but also in overall cost structuring. "We have not vacated the market at all, neither the UK nor Europe. We have just shifted our supply chain and our production base from the UK to RAK now," he said.

It is an expansion at RAK through a mix of capacity and a capability enhancement without increasing the shop floor area or the floor size. The additional investment will be around \$3 mil-

lion, he said.

BESS PROJECT

On the battery energy storage system (BESS) project, Agarwal said the investment could be between ₹5,000 crore and ₹10,000 crore, depending on how the market for EV and BESS developed in India. It will take 30-60 days to determine the location, as the company is in touch with various State governments. "We have to see what kind of benefits we can receive from them. But it is not just the issue of benefits," he said.

In phase one, the plant will focus on battery pack assembly with an investment of about ₹500 crore, he said.