

# JRD International plans Dh1.5b investments

**Abdul Basit**

DUBAI — JRD International plans Dh1.5 billion investments for establishing seven manufacturing facilities in seven countries in the next four years, according to its managing director Anupam Lunavat.

This investment is part of the Dubai-based conglomerate's vision to expand globally with the game-changer RMD composite polypropylene board that is changing construction systems and makes interior decoration easy for end-users.

"First we want to focus on GCC, Africa and CIS states for our unique products then we go to India for establishing the second manufacturing facility in Pune, India," Lunavat told *Khaleej Times* on the first day of The Big 5 Show.

He ruled out any kind of financing facility the company is looking for, and said: "We have enough funds to continue our expansion."

Talking about the exhibition, he said it's a big platform to launch products that's why the company is launching its flagship products at the event. "We are launching six products here," he added.

No matter how many factories the company opens outside the UAE, the headquarters will remain here in Dubai, he said.

The company is also planning to have its own showroom in Dubai early next year, but the products are expected to be available in a month time across the country, according to Lunavat.

"Our expansion plan is part of our vision to offer the best innovation of our times in the building construction industry and interior decoration sector," he said. With the ambitious expansion plan, the company aims to reach global production of half a million metric tonnes per annum by 2016.

"These game-changing products are the results of our five-year efforts to bring the best innovation to the region. As we commercially launch these products, we also want to spread them globally through this patented technology," Lunavat said.

"RMD Board is the realisation of our dream for the future and we want to transform it into a global company. Within the next four years, we will set up similar plants



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**Anupam Lunavat**

in emerging economies such as the BRIC nations and Turkey and North America," he said.

The move comes a few weeks after the Jebel Ali-based company commissioned a Dh300 million (\$80 million) RMD Board division manufacturing composite polypropylene boards that are changing, among other things, construction systems and the way people dress-up interiors - both office and residences.

The company's existing production facility, built at a 40,000 square meters plot of land within the Jebel Ali Free Zone, has created 700 job opportunities and is going to support thousands of indirect employment through the strengthening of its supply chain. This plant will service the GCC region as well as Africa and CIS.

RMD Board manufacturing plant is capable of producing more than 1,000 designs per year in its line of products for interior decorations that will cater to different tastes and cultures. "We have plan to go up to 3,000 designs by 2016," Lunavat said.

By next year, the plant will reach 110,000 metric tonnes per annum processing capacity of composite polypropylene board. That will make it the largest single-site manufacturing plant of rigid extrusion of composite polypropylene board in the world.

The many offerings by RMD Board are all water proof, termite resistant, fire retardant, highly durable, light-weight and 100 per cent recyclable.

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