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Author : Intan Farhana Zainul  
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## Kossan to open its first R&D centre in July 2017

By INTAN FARHANA ZAINUL  
intanzainul@thestar.com.my

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Glovemaker Kossan Rubber Industries Bhd will open the company's first research and development (R&D) centre in July next year as part of a transformation plan.

Founder and group chief executive officer Datuk Lim Kuang Sia said the company had invested about RM35mil for the centre through internally-generated funds.

"In the next five years our plan is to focus on automation of plants, production processes and new products through R&D," he told *StarBiz* after the launch of Kossan's new synthetic rubber gloves technology, the Low Derma Technology.

He said Kossan will spent about RM100mil in the next five years to expand new lines, plant automation and R&D.

The company's first patented glove technology, the Low Derma Technology, will help users from developing allergies from latex protein and rubber chemical accelerators.

"The Low Derma Tech works to eliminate allergy-causing accelerators in the glove-making

process while still ensuring that the gloves have the same or superior tensile strength, flexibility and sensitivity," Lim said.

Quoting a previous study, Lim said between 2% and 17% of healthcare workers were sensitive to natural rubber latex.

Lim said that Kossan was the first Malaysian glove manufacturer in the world to be granted the "Low Dermatitis Potential" claim in gloves by the US Food & Drug Administration (FDA).

The patent granted by FDA would last for 20 years, Lim noted.

He said the company had also been granted with patents in Japan, China, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

"The launch of Low Derma Technology would be the starting point of the company to focus in R&D and we aim to introduce more products in the future," he said.

He said the company has invested RM2mil for the product development of Low Derma Technology and that the patent was applied for back in 2009.

Kossan has installed capacity of 22 billion gloves per year and about 15% to 20% will be used to produce Low Derma Technology gloves.



**New technology:** (from left) Kossan executive director Lawrence Lim, Datuk Lim Kuang Sia, Midori Anzen director Norihide Enomoto and Kossan technical adviser Datuk Dr Ong Eng Long at the launch of Kossan Low Derma Technology in Kuala Lumpur.