

Date : 2 September 2016
Header : Kossan expects new tech gloves to see double-digit growth by 2017
Author : Billy Toh
Source : The Edge Financial Daily

Kossan expects new tech gloves to see double-digit growth by 2017

BY BILLY TOH

KUALA LUMPUR: Kossan Rubber Industries Bhd, which launched a new patented technology to ensure the wearers of its gloves have the least possibility of developing allergic reactions, is anticipating a double-digit revenue growth from gloves that incorporate the new technology by 2017.

Between 15% and 20% of the company's production capacity now is dedicated to the production of gloves under its house brand CHEMAX 7th

Sense, which has the new patented technology, Low Derma Technology (LDT).

"The number will likely increase once Kossan completes its plant expansion," said Kossan group managing director and chief executive officer Datuk Lim Kuang Sia.

He was speaking to reporters after introducing LDT yesterday. The group currently produces 22 billion pieces of gloves annually, of which 70% are nitrile gloves. The remainder are natural rubber gloves.

He said the use of the new tech-

nology is only the starting point for Kossan, which aspires to be more technology-oriented moving forward, and plans to have new plants run on automation to reduce the need for foreign labour.

Kossan said the new glove-making technology had made Kossan the first Malaysian glove manufacturer in the world to be granted the "Low Dermatitis Potential" claim in gloves by the US Food and Drug Administration.

"Extensive research and in-depth understanding of gloves, their man-

ufacture and chemical components, resulted in Kossan innovating Low Derma Tech. The group has invested and is working together with Midori Anzen, our business partner, to incorporate Low Derma Tech into other applications, as a patented and protected IP (intellectual property)," he said.

Over the next five years, the group will spend over RM100 million to expand new lines and transform its plants, with a focus on technology and automation, said Lim.

The need for the new glove-mak-

ing technology arises as there has been a marked increase in the number of healthcare personnel developing an allergic reaction to latex gloves, also known as Type I hypersensitivity, said Kossan technical adviser Datuk Dr Ong Eng Long.

Another type of reaction is the Type IV hypersensitivity, which is contact dermatitis reaction to the chemical accelerators used in both latex and non-latex (nitrile) glove manufacturing processes.

LDT helps users avoid Type I and Type IV allergic reactions.