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## Kossan launches patented tech that lowers possibility of allergic reactions

By [Billy Toh](#) / theedgemarkets.com | September 1, 2016 : 3:42 PM MYT

KUALA LUMPUR (Sept 1): Kossan Rubber Industries Bhd has launched a new patented technology that will ensure the wearers of its gloves have the least possibility of developing allergic reactions.

The technology is named Low Derma Technology and Kossan's group managing director and chief executive officer (CEO) Datuk Lim Kuang Sia announced today that Kossan is the first Malaysian glove manufacturer in the world to be granted the 'Low Dermatitis Potential' claim in gloves by the United States Food & Drug Administration.

The investment in the technology amounts to RM2 million. Kossan has worked on it since 2004 and the patent was applied for back in 2009, Lim told reporters during the launch.

"Extensive research and in-depth understanding of gloves, their manufacture and chemical components, resulted in Kossan innovating Low Derma Tech. The Group has invested and is working together with Midori Anzen, a highly innovative and esteemed business partner of Kossan, to incorporate Low Derma Tech into other applications, as a patented and protected IP (intellectual property)," Lim said.

Lim also shared that the launching of Low Derma Tech is only the starting point for the company, highlighting the need for the company to be technology oriented and focus on research and development to create value and develop a good market.

Over the next five years, the Group will spend about RM100 million plus on its expansion of new lines and transformation of its plan, focusing on technology and automation according to Lim.

The need for the technology arose as there has been a marked increase in the number of healthcare personnel who have developed an allergic reaction to latex gloves, also known as Type I hypersensitivity, according to Kossan's technical adviser to the Group CEO of Kossan, 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 process.

"Kossan's 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," Ong said.

To introduce its patented technology that offers all-round protection from Type I and Type IV hypersensitivity, Low Derma Tech has been incorporated into Kossan's house brand, CHEMAX® 7th Sense gloves.

As of 3.22pm, Kossan's share price trended lower by 2.13% to RM6.43, with only 129,200 shares traded. At its current level, it is trading at a trailing P/E of 20.3 times, with a market capitalisation of RM4.11 billion.

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