

WIND TUNNEL FACILITY SET UP AT KINFRA FILM AND VIDEO PARK

The facility, set up by Rowan Williams Davies & Irwin Inc., is the first-of-its-kind in the private sector in the whole of Indian sub-continent



DR. G C GOPALA PILLAI; G VIJAYARAGHAVAN; DR. K SIVAN AND PROF. S GOPALAKRISHNAN AT THE INAUGURAL CEREMONY OF THE WIND TUNNEL FACILITY

Rowan Williams Davies & Irwin Inc. (RWDI), the wind engineering consultants who have helped in the design and aerodynamic shaping of the world's tallest tower, Burj Khalifa, has established their new wind tunnel facility at KINFRA Film and Video Park in Thiruvananthapuram. This is their fifth wind tunnel facility with the other four being located in Canada and the UK. The facility is the first-of-its-kind in the private sector in the whole of Indian sub-continent.

Prof. S Gopalakrishnan, Chairman, Department of Aerospace Engineering, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru formally inaugurated the wind tunnel facility recently. Dr. G C Gopala Pillai, MD, KINFRA; Dr.

K Sivan, Director, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC); G Vijayaraghavan, Member, Kerala State Planning Board and S Ramnath, CEO,

Technopark were also present on the occasion.

Wind tunnel is an experimental tool to determine the wind force and



CANADA-BASED RWDI HAS WORKED AS WIND ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS FOR MOST OF THE ICONIC STRUCTURES AROUND THE WORLD

its responses acting upon structures such as tall buildings, chimneys, long-span roofs, cooling towers, long-span bridges and any other wind sensitive structures. "It is an essential parameter for the design of wind-sensitive structures. RWDI's plan is to utilise the facility in Thiruvananthapuram to cater to the Asian market where substantial construction activities in the real estate and infrastructure sectors are expected in the next few decades," K Suresh Kumar, Principal/Managing Director, RWDI (India) Pvt. Ltd., said.

RWDI is a 45-year-old firm headquartered in Canada with subsidiary offices in the US, the UK, India, China, Hong Kong and Singapore.

They have worked as wind engineering consultants for most of the iconic structures around the world. RWDI is currently working on the next tallest tower, Kingdom Tower, in Jeddah which will surpass Burj Khalifa in height upon completion. In India, RWDI has associated with the construction of more than 100 towers, including the iconic ones like Vrindavan Chandrodaya Mandir in Vrindavan and the Statue of Unity in Gujarat. Suresh Kumar said the new facility will greatly benefit researchers, academicians and even students by giving them more exposure into the field of wind engineering studies.

"RWDI always promotes sharing of knowledge considering it as a social cause. We have organised numerous seminars and workshops, with a good number of them being conducted in Indian metros. It will help create more awareness among the community about this specialised field of science and its impact on our lives by facilitating construction of safer buildings and other wind-sensitive structures," he said.

FOR A GREEN CAUSE



K SUDHAKARAN, GENERAL MANAGER PROJECTS, KINFRA AND ANEESH, JUNIOR MANAGER, KINFRA INDUSTRIAL PARK, OTTAPPALAM RECEIVING THE MALAYALA MANORAMA 'PALATHULLI' AWARD FOR RAINWATER HARVESTING FROM DR. HARSH VARDHAN, UNION MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

KINFRA DEFENCE PARK RECEIVES RS. 15 CRORE CENTRAL AID

In a major development, KINFRA has received Rs. 15 crore from Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Government of India for the KINFRA Defence Park at Ottappalam in Palakkad district being set up as part of the Make in India - Make in Kerala project. The total project cost, including land is Rs. 231.35 crore. Of this, Central Government assistance is Rs. 50 crore. The proposed project is intended to set up a Defence Park with all modern common infrastructure facilities for component manufacturers of defence industry with Central assistance under the Modified Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme (MIUS).

As per data, 50 per cent of India's military equipment is approaching obsolescence. With indigenous technologies far from being considered cutting edge and self-sufficient, the country is heavily dependent on imports. The output from the proposed park can increase the indigenous production of defence equipment and components which will have a huge impact on the economy and self-reliance in the defence sector.

The common infrastructure facilities in the Park include dedicated power, continuous water supply and communication facilities, offering plug-and-play arrangement for the setting up of industrial units at minimum cost and time. KINFRA is offering single-window clearance for all State approvals, procedural support, exemption of lease registration and stamp duty, and joint exposure to national and international programmes that target the defence sector. Ideal for defence electronics, research and development, software, light manufacturing, training and simulation, and testing, the potential list of defence technologies to be produced at the Park include antennas, battle management, cyber security, radar, data links, telemetry and the like.

KERALA INDUSTRIAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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