

Olectra lines up ₹700 crore for localisation drive

AKBAR MERCHANT
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OLECTRA GREENTECH IS lining up a fresh investment of nearly ₹700 crore as it looks to deepen localisation, expand its electric bus and truck portfolio.

The electric commercial vehicle maker has already announced an investment of around ₹400 crore towards next-generation buses and trucks. Another ₹200-300 crore will be deployed towards battery-pack assembly, truck manufacturing and new-generation bus platforms as manufacturers race to comply with localisation requirements under the Centre's PM E-Drive scheme.

"We are setting up battery-pack assembly and simultaneously developing a next-generation platform under which buses and trucks will be largely manufactured in India," said Mahesh Babu, chief executive officer

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CEO, Olectra
Greentech

(CEO), Olectra Greentech.

The company recently secured an order for 1,085 next-generation electric buses from Telangana under the PM E-Drive programme and expects the new platforms to be ready by the end of this year. According to Babu, localisation levels in the upcoming buses and trucks will exceed 60%, compared with around 50% in the current portfolio. At the same time, it continues to grapple with supply-chain disruptions and infrastructure bottlenecks that are slowing the pace of electric bus deployment across the country.

Alongside buses, Olectra is placing a significant bet on electric trucks as the next leg of growth. It is setting up a dedicated truck manufacturing facility with an annual production capacity of around 2,500 units. "The project is already underway and is expected to be operational within 12 months," Babu said.

