

# MKU gears up to gear the modern Indian soldier

■ By Sangeeta Saxena

**N**EW DELHI. Modern day warfare conditions and operation strategies have created a soldier equipped with an integrated set of high technology equipment and uniforms. Their communication systems are linked to a variety of real time and archived battlefield information resources. And the Indian soldier definitely needs to keep pace with not only this changed battle field scenario but also with the low intensity tactical operations where area of operations is urban surroundings.

And this is where MKU, an Indian armor major, has stepped in. Servicing customers in over 100 countries for over 25 years, MKU's infrastructure spans across 2 units in India and 1 in Germany. Units 1 & 2 are located at Malwan & Rooma near Kanpur. Unit 3 located at Sittensen in Germany is used as an off-shore production and R&D facility.

Neeraj Gupta, MD, MKU Pvt. Ltd said, "It has always been our endeavor to provide the best and most innovative products to ensure the maximum safety and protection for the armed forces. We are in a position to provide the best solutions due to our international exposure and stature which ensures that we always remain ahead in terms of technology and R&D efforts than most of our peers."

The company has successfully completed the MHA, Government of India tender for ballistic over vests. MKU plans to invest 1 Billion INR for its Night Vision Devices (NVDs) in the first phase.

Instavest (for which MKU holds a US patent) is a fully integrated & customisable Body Armour system designed for high ergonomic quotient and wearing comfort of modern



Neeraj Gupta, MD, MKU

dismounted infantrymen. Discreetly designed and chosen parts offer long wearing comfort levels in field combat scenarios. 2 point quick release system enables easy and quick doffing in case of emergencies wherein quick divesting of body armour becomes prime importance to carry out certain operations.

All the devices integrated in body armour are connected via concealed self guiding cabling system. MOLLE compatible system allows soldiers to discreetly choose the mission critical equipment that they wish to carry using externally detachable or stitched on pockets.

Boltfree IPS is a unique helmet manufactured using "No holes-No bolts" technology which not only provides uniform protection levels across the shells surface but also negates the possibility of ballistic holes and threats from secondary metallic fragments arising due to usage of bolts to mount harness systems within the helmet shell. IPS padding system is unique combination of integrated single

padding system developed in coalition with SKYDEX specialising in providing solutions to mitigate blast and shock wave induced long term traumatic brain injuries to the soldiers when subjected to IED or similar explosions in close proximities.

The company is setting up a state of the art manufacturing facility for Night Vision Devices to help soldiers achieve battlefield transparency by employing surveillance, reconnaissance and target acquisition means to find the enemy and destroy him by accurate prophylactic as well as accurate aimed fire in dark and adverse visibility conditions.

MKU recently inaugurated a Technical Research Centre for research and development for new, innovative and versatile solutions in the field of ballistic protection. MKU invests constantly on R&D in an endeavor to remain on the leading edge of technology.

"True freedom exists when we feel safe. MKU provides protection to the brave soldiers and law enforcement personnel who protect us while endangering their own lives.

At MKU, we are proud to extend a safety blanket to the families of all those soldiers. Our objective is to earn their smiles when their loved ones reach back home safely. It is my vision to ensure the safety of all security and law enforcement personnel in every theater of conflict, after all, they are fighting for our safety," added Gupta.

A feather in MKU's cap was the award of the NIJ 0101.06 certification by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), USA for a range of advanced hard armour and soft armour configurations. Ballistic Resistance of Body Armor with this certification establishes the minimum performance requirements and test methods for body armour designed to protect the torso against gunfire.

Gupta reiterated that their goal is to make MKU a one stop shop for force multiplier solutions and we will keep coming up with such innovative products in the future to provide a winning edge to the troops.

