

Birla firm to supply transaxles to Ford

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Bangalore US auto giant Ford, for the first time in its history, is outsourcing assembling of transaxle systems for its cars. Avtec Ltd, a CK Birla Group company, has won a contract from Ford India to manufacture transaxle systems for Figo, Ford's new small car which will hit Indian roads next week.

"This is the first time the company is sourcing complete transaxle systems from a third party," said Michael Boneham, president of Ford India.

Transaxle is a major mechanical component that manages functioning of transmissions. Avtech, which is the largest independent manufacturer of engines and transmission in the country, has set up a manufacturing facility in Hosur near Bangalore with an installed capacity of 1.5 lakh units per year exclusively to supply transaxle systems to Ford India.

Ford India has been sourcing other transmission parts like gear boxes from Avtec and exporting them to its global manufacturing facilities. Now, Avtec will directly supply transmission components to Ford's global operations, said Boneham.

Avtec is also supplying gasoline powertrain units to Ford's other famous models, Fiesta and Ikon, in the country. Prabhakar Kadapa, chief executive officer and managing director of Avtec, said the company has invested around Rs 30 crore at its Hosur plant to manufacture transaxle systems for Ford.