

Singapore bus maker SC Auto to set up S\$30m facility in Myanmar

Production is slated to start in Q4 2018 and will enable the company to up its overall production by 4 times

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PHOTO: YEN MENG JIIN

Singapore

HOMEGROWN bus manufacturer SC Auto is setting up a S\$30 million facility in Yangon, Myanmar – its first foray overseas after focusing on operations here for over 20 years.

The 16,000 square metre facility is slated to start production in the fourth quarter of 2018. It will enable SC Auto to increase its overall production by four times, and cater to demands from Myanmar and South-east Asia.

SC Auto aims to produce over 100 buses in Myanmar in the first year and double its overall revenue, the company said on Monday.

It also plans to increase its manpower hires to 600 and invest in robotic welding to boost the production process in the new facility.

Chairman Tan Siow Chua said that the company had built a strong foothold in Singapore, from where it needed to look overseas for continued business growth.

“With its demand for public transport, proximity to emerging South-east Asian countries, as well as availability of land and relatively

lower labour costs, Myanmar is the ideal location for our first venture overseas.”

SC Auto will become the first foreign bus manufacturer in the country, according to International Enterprise (IE) Singapore, which is supporting the company’s foray into Myanmar.

Law Chung Ming, group director for transport and logistics at IE Singapore, said: “As the first approved foreign bus manufacturing company in Myanmar, SC Auto has the first-mover advantage to address the huge demand in the country.

“With rapid urbanisation in South-east Asia, there is a pressing need for transport and logistics solutions to enhance domestic and intra-region connectivity.”

SC Auto had tapped IE Singapore’s Internationalisation Finance Scheme, as well as expertise in internationalisation strategy and business networks, to support the set-up.

Last Thursday, the sixth Singapore-Myanmar Joint Ministerial Working Committee meeting was held in Singapore.