



## 'Another step closer to Diamond Valley'



Limburg and Belgium have a new jewel in the high-tech crown. Heyaru Engineering grows diamonds in Lommel and has big plans for the future. Founder Vikram Shah provides text and explanation.

### **Heyaru Engineering is investing 26 million in the new diamond factory. What is your vision?**

“Making diamond is the material of the future, and we want to see a real Diamond Valley emerge around our new site in Lommel,” says Shah. “Everyone knows Silicon Valley as the center of the tech industry, but silicon is a material of the past. The unique properties of our lab-grown diamond will ensure that it is integrated into countless applications, such as supercomputers, lasers, water purification and aerospace. We want to become the supplier of the tech companies of the future.”



## What's the big difference with natural diamonds?

“Less than 2% of natural diamonds have the properties required for the new applications, for example in all possible sensors and in the transistors on computer chips. Until recently, that made the material unaffordable. Because we continue to perfect the process, we create such diamonds for a much lower price. And that's how we can unlock its real potential.”

## How far are you now?

“It was a complicated year, but we harvested our first diamonds at our start-up site in June. And this month we completed the purchase of the land for our new factory in the Kristalpark in Lommel. We are very pleased that we will soon be able to use the green electricity from the largest solar park in the Benelux, because we strive for maximum sustainability. The Limburg Reconversion Company (LRM) has also decided to invest in our company. That can count as a vote of confidence!”

## What are the next steps for Heyaru Engineering?

“We are currently focusing on the production of diamonds for the jewelry industry. For us that means picking the low-hanging fruit. This is interesting for the investors we need to scale up our production and for further research. We do this in collaboration with IMOMECE, the institute for materials research at Hasselt University. Over the next 5 to 10 years, we want to invest 260 million euros and create 150 jobs. In this way we also help the people in the region, and we attach great importance to this.”



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**This is an article by:**

Heyaru Engineering

**Published on:**

January 19, 2021