



(This is what the building will look like. © Heyaru)

'Diamond Valley' in Lommel expands with a new building: "In time we can create between 120 and 150 jobs in this way"

In May, Willy Naessens Industriebouw will start work on a new building for Heyaru at Kristalpark III. In this way, the Indian company can further increase its diamond production. In order for everything to run smoothly, Heyaru also submitted an application to VLAIO to extend the duration of the entire project.

Heyaru's ambition is gigantic: investments of up to 260 million euros should ensure that the company becomes the 'Diamond Valley' of Europe. In a first phase, Heyaru wants to invest 24 million euros and hire 15 new employees. The Flemish government supported the company with 2 million euros of strategic transformation aid at the end of December 2018. Normally, the project would be completed in three years, but that period appears not to be feasible.

Archaeological Research

"There are two reasons that the project has been delayed," says founder Vikram Shah. "First of all, there was the mandatory archaeological investigation before we could start the work. That took considerably longer than expected. The results were only known in the spring of 2020. And then of course there was the corona pandemic that threw a spanner in the works. Fortunately, there is understanding for our delay and we can extend the duration. "



(Heyaru's future branch. © Heyaru)

Green Energy

The company is currently still located on the Balendijk and is renting a building from LRM. Four machines are used to create diamonds. "Such a machine takes 33 days to turn a seed into a rough diamond," explains the founder. "We then send those diamonds to our companies in India where they are further processed into jewelery. The intention is that we build our own buildings on an area of two hectares on the Kristalpark. With the help of the Solar Park, this will run on green energy. After all, we also want to contribute to the climate. "

Up to 150 Jobs

The planning is now to have the building ready in 2022. In the next five to ten years, more will be invested in buildings and machines. Shah emphasizes that the ambitions of the company remain the same: "The expansion is therefore important for the region. If the project can be developed, our diamond production can also be increased in the longer term. That would mean that between 120 and 150 jobs would be created. "

Heyaru opened its doors in Lommel in 2016. It sees North Limburg as an ideal location between the port of Antwerp and Diepenbeek, where the University of Hasselt uses synthetic diamonds in technological applications. The presence of the Solar Park also played a role in the choice for Lommel.