

HIWIN TO SPEND US \$150 MILLION FOR EXPANSION

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Hiwin Technologies Co, Taiwan's leading machinery maker, yesterday said it plans to invest between NT\$4 billion and NT\$5 billion (US\$125.2 million and US\$156.5 million) next year to expand capacity to meet rising demand.

This represents an increase of between 14 and 43 percent from this year's NT\$3.5 billion.

The investment will be spent on building three new plants in Chiayi, Taichung and China's Suzhou, company chairman Eric Chuo (卓永財) told reporters after an investors' conference in Taipei.



Hiwin Chairman Eric Chuo speaks at investors' conference

A new factory in the Chiayi Dapumei Precision Machinery Park is to be completed by the end of this year, while another in Taichung City Refined Mechanics Industrial Park is to start operations in the second half of next year. The first phase of the Suzhou plant's construction is to be completed in July next year, which would supply products directly to the Chinese market.

In addition, Hiwin plans to move a Hsinchu-based subsidiary's facilities and equipment to Suzhou, Chuo said. The subsidiary, Luren Precision Co, produces gear-cutting tools and spin pumps.

Asked about the sales outlook for next year, Chuo said he is upbeat about the company's growth momentum, as demand for high-end equipment, such as five-axis machines, is likely to remain robust.
