



BRUNO SCHLUMBERGER/OTTAWA CITIZEN

Krish Suthanthiran, president of Best Theratronics, says he will likely build a new 600,000-sq.-ft plant in the U.S., perhaps in Indiana, where there are more flexible labour laws and governments are more receptive than in Canada. The plant would employ up to 1,000 workers.

# Tech entrepreneur battles government 'indifference'

## Best Theratronics owner looks south to build manufacturing plant



BERT HILL  
WORKING CAPITAL

It's tough building new technology companies. Just ask Krish Suthanthiran, the 65-year-old whirlwind entrepreneur

transforming Kanata medical gear manufacturer **Best Theratronics**.

He is unhappy with what he sees as indifferent government responses in Canada to plans to build a big manufacturing plant for his **Best Medical International** group of companies.

But his biggest problem is a battle with a big U.S. bank over the financing of his private biomedical empire, which has sales of more than \$100 million annual-

ly. Just last week he appealed to President Barack Obama to intervene in a discrimination and defamation case in which he is seeking \$1 billion in damages.

In Canada he said the federal government cares only about balancing the budget, while the Ontario government put a mortgage on his expansion plans for new cancer-treatment products in Kanata. Suthanthiran said the operation is growing, with more than \$5 million

being invested in equipment and renovations as production increases to fill customer orders of \$30 million to \$40 million. He hopes to add a second production shift next year. "Our product developments are in high gear. We are spending nearly \$10 million U.S. and more than 50 high-tech employees are working in these programs. We have added more than 125 employees (for a total of about 180) at Best Theratronics since I purchased it

four years ago."

But a big new 600,000-sq.-ft plant will likely be built south of the border where governments are more receptive.

He is now looking to Indiana and other U.S. states with flexible labour laws to build a plant with up to 1,000 employees.

"I am thinking of sending an open letter to Dalton McGuinty to tell him not to play games if he expects to attract technology manufacturing jobs," he said.

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