

REF: Economic Times dt.29.07.06

Harbour Link Project Gets Cracking

Our Political Bureau MUMBAI

THE Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) shortlisted three consortia for its ambitious Rs 4,000-croreplus Mumbai Trans Harbour Link Project that will connect Sewree in Mumbai to Nhava in Navi Mumbai on Friday.

The three consortia shortlisted today are: IL&FS-SKIL-John Laing Construction Co (UK), Larsen & Toubro-Gammon India-Sistema (Russia), and Indian Farmers Fertilizers Corporation-Skanska Cementation-Italian Thai development-Meada(Japan). Having received all mandatory environmental clearances, the MSRDC, had invited global bids for the project to be built on BOT basis. In all 49 companies, groups from different countries had shown interest in the project, of which six consortiums submitted the pre-qualification bids.

Based on the evaluation done by international consultants, the MSRDC board on Friday gave its nod for pre-qualification of three consortia. The MSRDC has also issued request for proposal (RFP) to three pre-qualified bidders. They have been given three months' time to submit detail bids. The work is likely to be awarded in December '06. The project envisages six lane — 22km bridge from Sewree to Nhava. It is proposed to start from Eastern freeway near Sewree railway station and joins to NH-4B at Chirle. The cost of the project has been pegged at over Rs 4000-crore and the estimated construction time is four years.

The project, that was first proposed by late JRD Tata and has been hanging fire for the past 30 years. The Maharashtra government conducted several studies for this particular route over the years. In 1970, the state government appointed a committee to study possible alternatives for a 'Mumbai-Uran Communication Link' based on the Regional Planning Board recommendations for Mumbai region. The Committee published its report in '72. A second Committee was formed in '78 to appraise the report of the '72 committee and to identify the survey and studies required for the preparation of Techno-Economic feasibility Report for a Trans-harbour link. The second committee presented its report in 1980. This was followed by a steering committee in February 81 under the chairmanship of JRD Tata.

The committee strongly recommended the "construction of Northern Link between Sewree and Nhava". It was considered that this link would prove a major step towards the development of Navi Mumbai and beyond thereby helping to decongest the city. "We expect the work on this much-delayed project to begin by this yearend," said state PWD minister Anil Deshmukh.

- MSRDC shortlists three consortia for its ambitious Rs 4,000-crore project
- Project to connect Sewree in Mumbai to Nhava in Navi Mumbai
- 49 companies had shown interest in the project