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## INFRASTRUCTURE Getting the act together



# Forerunners in tapping infra boom

In the 30 years of its existence, SPML has gone from strength to strength in every aspect of its operations, Lovina Kinny reports...



**Sushil Sethi,**  
Managing Director,  
SPML Infra Ltd

As one of India's oldest infrastructure companies with a visionary journey that has spanned over three decades, SPML (formerly Subhash Projects and Marketing Ltd) today has established its leadership in the construction of India's vital urban infrastructure. With its sustained vigor, the company has been providing critical water, power and transportation infrastructure to the nation. Over the years, SPML Infra has constructed world class infrastructure for water treatment and drinking water supply, wastewater treatment and recycling, cities sewerage management systems, solid waste management, renewable energy generation, power transmission and distribution and civil infrastructure development including roads, highways and over bridges.

SPML is at the cutting edge of the infrastructure industry providing the much needed bottom of the pyramid infrastructure services for urban water supply and scientific waste management across the country without which the collective dreams of Incredible India and India Shining will, in my mind, quite simply remain dreams.

"We provide solutions for proper treatment and disposal of municipal and industrial wastewater and sewage to ensure that the generated wastewater does not harm our delicate ecosystem and is recycled for further usage," says Sushil Sethi, Managing Director, SPML Infra Ltd.

The company has been promoting sustainable water management – a task that is increasingly becoming important and complex as natural supplies deplete and demand rises. Whether it is water supply or wastewater treatment, SPML makes an important contribution towards conserving the precious resource across the nation by reducing wastage, losses and pilferages. Moreover, it is helping the municipalities to provide access to safe, clean potable water to their residents.

With its strong foothold in the domain of design and construction of water treatment and wastewater recycling plants, SPML has executed more than 400 projects in 27 states of India on EPC (Engineering, Procurement and Construction), PPP (Public Private Partnership) and BOOT (Build-Own-Operate-Transfer) basis. Currently, it is executing projects worth ₹4000 crore across India.

SPML is aggressively pursuing projects in the water and wastewater space along with management contracts for water distribution. "We are currently operating city water distribution in three important cities of Maharashtra - Aurangabad, Bhiwandi and Latur. We have a strategic plan to increase our presence in water, wastewater and SWM sectors and make SPML as the largest player in the urban utility services in India," reveals Sethi.

## Projects

For almost three decades, operating with the cutting edge technology in project and marketing, have provided SPML with the experience and expertise which today enables the company to deal with projects of all types and virtually any size or scale. From laying pipeline in difficult hilly terrain and forest areas to constructing the highest single stage pumping station in the world





at 12,000 feet above sea level, SPML has ridden the success wave through its innovative thinking.

At the macro level, SPML has introduced services that are unique and first of its kind. Be it the waste management in Delhi - a novel PPP initiative, or the sewer rehabilitation services or the country's waste three stage sewage treatment plant, SPML has stayed ahead through offering innovative services to India's infrastructure needs.

Many of the engineering and construction projects executed by the company, have set new benchmarks in terms of scale, sophistication and speed. These include 119 MLD Pokaran Water Treatment Plant which helped provide clear water to 580 villages and three towns of Pokaran, Balotra and Siwana in Rajasthan; 146.75 MLD water treatment plant in Sawai Madhopur that would treat the raw water of Chambal River to specified quality standards to help supply drinking water to the residents of Sawai Madhopur, Karauli and nearby 4 towns, 926 villages, 72 MLD water treatment plant which helped in generating power for Bakreshwar Thermal Power Plant in West Bengal.

"Quality and timely execution behind every project we undertake is a motto that all of us at SPML strictly follow," says Sethi. He further adds, "What sets us apart from the rest is our single minded focus on infrastructure, a wealth of experience across verticals, expanding pan India presence, innovative in-house design and engineering solutions, enduring banking relationships, highly skilled team of engineers and domain experts and dedication to cutting edge technology."

The other projects executed include 100 MLD water treatment plant in Goa to augment the existing water supply system, 57 MLD water treatment plant in Shimoga to augment the water supply scheme of Shimoga in Karnataka, 60 MLD water treatment plant in Davanagere, Karnataka to help water supply to the town, 68 MLD water treatment plant for providing drinking water supply to Hubli - Dharwad twin city in Karnataka. In the wastewater segment, SPML has undertaken 240 MLD sewage treatment plant, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, 72 MLD sewage treatment plant, Okhla, Delhi, 70 MLD sewage treatment plant, Nasik, Maharashtra, 60 MLD sewage

treatment plant, Mysore, Karnataka, 42 MLD sewage treatment plant, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh. The list goes on.

SPML has in-house engineering capabilities for both project design and construction to provide integrated solution for designing and building the project to meet client's requirements. "Our IT enabled facilities include the modern CAD Centre complete with design and project management software. We also have alliances with offshore technology leaders for technical and technological knowledge enhancement and will continue be doing so in the coming years," states Sethi.

## Technical Alliance

The year 2010 marks SPML's foray into the membrane desalination space in alliance with Aqualyng, a global leader in the international desalination market.

"Access to safe water is becoming more complex day by day. To cater the demands from industries and the drinking water, desalination is the latest technology to make treated water available for industrial use and human consumption," opines Sethi adding that SPML has ventured into this field to offer energy efficient and low life-cycle cost reverse osmosis desalination systems.

Once SPML starts this project, we will be able to offer cost effective desalinated potable and industrial water to power, construction, oil & gas, petrochemicals, agriculture, mining and minerals and metal processing industries among others. We plan to make this project operational by this year end, adds Sethi.

Besides, the company has also collaborated with technically driven global experts in water management like Hydrocomp Enterprises Ltd, Cyprus (EDAMS Technology) for providing superlative water utility services, water management, technical studies, rehabilitation, 24x7 water distribution, concessional and public private partnership contracts in water utilities.

"We are open for the strategic alliances with offshore technology partners as per requirements to continue our endeavor in giving the best. We are

also looking at financial partners to grow and develop the private water management business," states Sethi.

The company believes that the next phase of growth in the water sector will come in management of city water distribution systems and long term operation and maintenance contracts. "With captive funding support from central government and utilization of available resources by the state governments and municipalities, solid waste management projects will be the focus area in next few years," says Sethi.

## Future plans

Speaking on the immense opportunities in the JNNURM projects, Sethi said, the High Powered Expert Committee of Government of India (HPEC) on infrastructure estimates the investment requirement of ₹39.2 lakh crore in urban infrastructure sector over the next 20 years (2012-2031). Out of which, the estimated investment in the core urban infrastructure services of water supply, sewerage, storm water drains, solid waste management, urban roads, urban transport, street lighting and traffic support infrastructure amount



to be ₹31 lakh crore.

"JNNURM scheme has helped 65 major cities to develop urban infrastructure facilities. With the rich experience of three decades of executing turnkey projects, SPML is strongly positioned to develop large and sophisticated urban infrastructure projects under the JNNURM schemes," adds Sethi.

The company is currently executing a large number of JNNURM projects in

water, civil infrastructure and solid waste management.

The company's main focus will remain on ULBs and government departments, opines Sethi however it is also opened for any opportunities with industrial or private sectors. SPML is currently executing hydro power generation projects in Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Mizoram with combined capacity of over 150 MW. It has also executed and working on a number of balance of plant and water treatment projects for power plants in India.

In addition, SPML also owns and operates coal mines in Indonesia, spread over 5000 hectares area with coal reserve of over 166 million tons.

With the current order book position at ₹3500 crore in 2011-12, the company further expects to add another ₹1000-1200 crore worth new projects to its account in the current financial year. "We are focusing on completing the ongoing projects on time. We are also looking at growing our trenchless rehabilitation of sewer and water pipeline business across India. Today, we have one of the finest urban infra team capable of handling any project of any scale with sophistication. We have a vision to make SPML a leader in water and urban services sector globally, envisions Sethi.

## Signature Projects

- | Pokaran-Falsund-Balotra-Siwana (PFBS) Lift Project to provide sustainable source of potable water supply to 580 villages (177 in Jaisalmer and 403 in Barmer) together with 3 towns, Pokaran, Balotra and Siwana in Rajasthan.
- | Chambal-Sawaimadhopur-Nadauti Water Supply Project to cater the complete water requirement of Sawaimadhopur and Karauli and also meeting partial requirement of Gangapur and Todabhim in Rajasthan.
- | Treated Water Transmission Mains Project to provide drinking water to about 10 lac people spread over 40 villages in Meenad, Pattuvam and adjoining areas in Kerala.
- | Haiderpur-Wazirabad Water Supply Project to improve the raw water supply for the treatment plant at Wazirabad and to enhance the water requirements of Delhi.
- | Saurashtra Pipeline Project to transfer the excess water from the southern region of Gujarat to the drought prone areas of Saurashtra with 52 km of cross country pipeline in Gujarat.
- | Pranahitha Chevella Lift Irrigation Scheme of water conveyor system consisting of lined gravity canal of Tipparam-Chityal Canal Reach with carrying capacity of 44.20 cms in Andhra Pradesh.
- | Water Intake and Plant Water System for Bakreswar Thermal Power Project in West Bengal among many others.