

SPML Infra bags orders worth ₹334 cr

SPML Infra has won new orders worth Rs 334 crore from the Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development & Finance Corporation for 24x7 water supply system for three cities -- Bellary, Hospet and Raichur, with a combined population of 8.5 lakh. These projects are part of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) funded projects to improve urban services in towns and cities in Karnataka. These new water supply projects would help in improving the quality of life in underdeveloped areas with uninterrupted clean drinking water supply. SPML has received these performance-based management contracts to design and construct infrastructure of distribution networks, provide metered connections and operate and maintain the facilities for five years after completion. The three

orders received are Bellary Rs 136.41 crore; Raichur Rs 117.95 crore; and Hospet Rs 79.5 crore. The scope of work for Bellary involves 281 km of new distribution network, and 69,159 house service connections.

The Raichur scope of work includes 528 km of new distribution network, 2 raw water pumping stations and 37,117 house service connections. The Hospet scope of work involves 204 km of new distribution network, rehabilitation of two water treatment plants of 18.16 and 4.54 MLD and 42,705 house service connections with five years of operations and maintenance.

With earlier orders of three other cities -- Sindhanur, Gadag-Betageri and Haveri -- SPML Infra will be executing drinking water supply

projects in 6 cities of Karnataka with a combined population of more than 12 lakh.

Rishabh Sethi, COO, SPML Infra, commented, "We are working in the water sector for more than 30 years and water supply and distribution management has become our core competency. We are happy that our esteemed clients recognize our expertise in the water management sector and the new projects in Karnataka are a testimony. These new projects are in addition to a number of water supply and distribution projects SPML is already executing. We have laid more than 4,000 km water pipelines of various sizes and length in different geographical conditions, and with these new projects we will be laying another 1,652 kilometers."

India eyes G20 for infra fund plans

India has proposed that the G20 group be used as a platform for matchmaking the private sector, including pension funds which are sitting on a huge cash pile, with countries that are in dire need of funds for developing infrastructure. If this plan is implemented, India would be one of the key beneficiaries and be able to attract financing for its massive infrastructure needs from pension funds, global companies, which are looking at attractive investment options that promise a stable and healthy rate of return. The issue is learnt to have been flagged at a recent meeting of G20 in Turkey, in which Railway

Minister Suresh Prabhu represented India.

"We can create a platform for matchmaking investors and countries which need funding," said an official. The G20, in its meeting in Brisbane, agreed to set up a Global Infrastructure Hub with a four-year mandate.

The hub is expected to contribute to develop a knowledge-sharing platform and network between governments, the private sector, development banks and other international organizations. The hub is expected to foster collaboration among various groups to improve the functioning and financing of infrastructure markets.

