

Sewer rehabilitation is a booming market

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THOUGH sewer rehabilitation is generally considered as a low priority area in India due to difficulties in site conditions, things are gradually changing for the better. In an exclusive interaction with *Projectmonitor*, Rishabh Sethi, Director, Subhash Projects & Marketing Ltd, said that urban local bodies have taken up large-scale sewer rehabilitation programmes that will result in a substantial expansion of the industry size. Delhi Jal Board, for instance, has embarked on large-scale rehabilitation programme that is amongst the largest sewer rehabilitation programmes in the world. "Similar activities are being initiated in other cities



Rishabh Sethi, Director, Subhash Projects & Marketing Ltd.



▶ *Insituform technology at work.*

also," Sethi said. Over the next five years, the business opportunity size of the sewer rehabilitation industry would be around Rs 9,000 crore, he averred.

To tap the potential, SPML tied up last year with US-based Insituform Inc to form a new joint venture Insituform Pipeline Rehabilitation Pvt. Ltd (IPRPL) in which the local partner will have 49.5 per cent stake. Explaining the rationale, Sethi said that the new company would benefit from the execution and marketing abilities of SPML and the technical expertise and patented cured in-place (CIPP) technology of Insituform.

The JV has won two orders worth Rs 235 crore from Delhi Jal Board including a Rs 140-crore order for rehabilitation of the West Delhi and Jail Road sewers that is scheduled for completion by early 2010. In Delhi itself, another Rs 95-crore order to revamp a sewer system currently serving 1.4 crore persons is

scheduled to go on stream by 2009 end, with a completion period of two years. "We expect new orders of Rs 300 crore next year and that will continue to grow in the following years," Sethi said. Discussing potential business opportunities, he explained that discussions were on with local urban bodies in Mumbai, Bangalore and Hyderabad.

"IPRPL hopes to achieve 25-30 per cent of the potential market of Rs 9,000 crore over the next five years," Sethi disclosed. The key would be to execute projects speedily with minimum disruption to public life. The technology available also permits a smooth diversification into rehabilitation of oil and gas and water pipelines, he noted.

What is CIPP?

Cured in-place pipe (CIPP) technology is a jointless, seamless and trenchless technology used to rehabilitate sewers and pipelines with a synthetic fibre liner. The process enables repairs to pipes without digging trenches and disrupting communities. Currently 60 per cent of the world's pipelines are rehabilitated through this technology. In fact, by using the technology, more than 37,000 km of underground pipe infrastructure has been reconstructed in 40 countries spanning five continents.