

Process to procure rakes for Metro-III corridor begins

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Mumbai: The Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation (MMRC) has set in motion the process to procure the rolling stock (rakes) to run the services on the Metro-III corridor even though the bidders for the civil work are yet to be finalized.

The 32.5km-long Metro-III corridor (Colaba-Bandra-Seepz) is expected to be ready by 2019 as per the original deadline set by the government. MMRC has invited bids for shortlisting the bidders for design, manufacture, supply, installation and commission of rolling stock.

A senior MMRC official said, "We plan to have 35 rakes of six coaches on the system. As per our estimated, the cost of procuring the rolling stock will be around Rs 1700 crore to Rs 2000 crore."

"The civil work bids have not been finalized but that does not mean that the work cannot begin on other equally important components of the project. There will be financial bids too and thereafter the bid-

File picture



The new line is expected to be completed by 2019

der will be selected. It is a long drawn process and we do not want the project to get delayed because of procedural reasons. The manufacturer too will need adequate time to deliver the rakes in time to ferry commuters," another official said.

The civil work for station and underground tunnel is expected to begin before the end of this financial year.

The official further said that any delay in the tendering process can also have an impli-

cation on the cost of the project due to inflation and foreign exchange fluctuations.

Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation (MMRC) had estimated the cost of the project at Rs 23,136 crore, including Rs 10,500 crore on civil work and stations. The estimates of the project were based on the foreign exchange rates prevalent in 2011 and inflation and taxation policy of that era. There has been a change on all these indices because of which civil work cost itself is likely to increase by Rs 5,000 crore.

The 32.5-km stretch will be opened in phases with the first being Seepz to BKC, expected to open by June 2019. The second phase, which will be between BKC-Science museum, will open in December 2019 and the final stretch up to Cuffe Parade by April 2020.

As per the planning, the work is always given priority at the end where the car depot is planned. Since the depot is going to shift to Kanjurmarg from Aarey, it is but obvious that work on Kanjurmarg-Seepz will begin and conclude first.