

THE TIMES OF INDIA, CHENNAI
FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 2012

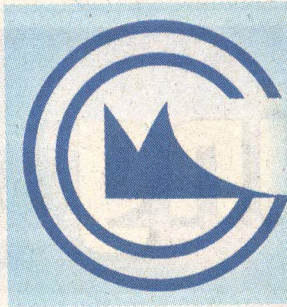
Finally, work on airport metro station to be taken up soon

AAI To Take Up Construction; Tenders To Open On March 20

V Ayyappan | TNN

Chennai: The Chennai metro rail juggernaut has finally reached the airport four years after work began. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) have firmed up a deal to build the airport metro station within 14 months. Bids for the Rs 49.22-crore project will be opened by the end of the month.

Though work on the Airport-Washermenpet metro line began in 2008, it is only now that metro rail authorities have begun work on the airport station. The metro rail and AAI officials signed the MoU in the last week of February after which AAI floated a tender for the project. "The tender



The symbol in the frame represents the metro rail corporation and its business. A mildly distorted image of 'M' for metro rail sits inside a 'C' for Chennai. It also signifies a train passing through a tunnel

will be opened on March 20. The contractor will have to build the station in 14 months," said an AAI senior official.

The station, which will come up near the existing police station in front of the airport, will have a basement and four floors. AAI will construct the station using the money and design provided by the metro rail

authorities. After the building is completed, CMRL will lay tracks, electrify the line and install lifts, escalator and other facilities.

CMRL has decided to entrust AAI with the job because the structure was to come up on airport premises and would have called for too much coordination if it were to handle the construction.

The metro station will be integrated with the new passenger terminals that are being built. The design of the station will also gel well with the snazzy new-look passenger terminals made of steel and glass. Roof of the station will have aluminum profile roofing and a steel portal frame.

An elevated metro line will come into the station. The concourse of the station will be linked to the passenger terminals through a connector tube, which will connect the metro station to the flyover in front of the new terminal, so that passengers alighting from the trains can go to the departure area of the new terminals without coming out of the station building.