

Metro train takes shape at Alstom's

Coach Production Unaffected By Rail Construction Lag; Work On For 10th, 11th Rake

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Metro rail construction may have slowed down, but coach production is in full swing at Alstom's factory in Sri City on the outskirts of the city.

Work is on to make the 10th and 11th rakes at the production centre. Of the 42 four-coach rakes, nine will be imported from Brazil while the rest will be manufactured at the local plant. "The factory is up and running, and one four-car rake has been completed. Testing is going on. Five rakes have come from Brazil; four more will be here soon. Alstom is to import nine rakes from Brazil and make the rest in its factory here under transfer of technology. Though the trains are made as per international standards, it is customised for use in Chennai," said a senior official of metro rail.

"The 10th train is complete and is undergoing static type and routine tests at the Alstom factory in Sri City. Officials from the general consultants and metro rail are monitoring the tests. The train will be transported to the Koyambedu

IN FULL SWING



The delay in metro rail construction delay has not affected the coach production unit in Alstom's factory in Sri City

yard after clearance. The 11th train is nearing completion and it will soon be tested extensively," he added. Preliminary work to make the 12th and the 15th trains has begun.

Feb 2013 | Production of coaches begins at Alstom's factory

May 2013 | Car body shell completed for 10th train

Jun 2013 | Factory building construction completed. Fitting work begins on shell of 10th train

Aug 2013 | Water tightness test, dimensional verification done on the shell; bogie assembly completed for 10th train

Nov 2013 | 10th train nearing completion, internal test begins on the coaches

Dec 2013 | Train 10 completed, static test begins. Eleventh train nearing completion

the standards followed in Brazil.

The five trains that have arrived at Koyambedu depot are being tested for different functions. "We test to find out whether the coaches are made as per the parameters set in the contract. Then they will be tested for operations and functioning of electronic and electrical systems by keeping the train parked on the track. Running tests are being conducted on a test track that has virtual stations inside the depot. Rakes will be taken out on the elevated line after tests on the test track," said an official.

Two trains arrived from Brazil on January 27 and were moved to the yard. The first trains were driven for more than a kilometer on the elevated line that linked the depot to the main line at Koyambedu on Thursday. "All the trains will be put through different tests. We are likely to start testing the train along elevated line between Koyambedu and Ashok Nagar in 15 days. A full-fledged trial will take time because stations need to be built and electronics and communication system need to be installed," he said.

Under transfer of technology, engineers recruited for production of the coaches here have completed training at Alstom's Lapa plant in Brazil. They will be able to manufacture the coaches as per