

Touch & believe: Metro prototype is here soon

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Chennai: It may take more than a year for metro rail's trains to start running in the city. But residents will soon be able to touch and feel a metro rail coach, as a prototype, including driver's cab, will be brought to the city from Brazil in October.

Metro rail has so far only released photos of the train and has also painted a train's model at some of the work sites.

The prototype, which is taking shape at Alstom's La Pa factory in Brazil, will be brought to the city so that people will be able to see the kind of rolling stock that metro will be using to operate services when works are completed on the two-corridor project in 2015. A prototype of the driver's cabin of the train is ready in Brazil.

"It will be a smaller ver-

METRO ON A ROLL *The eye-catching details of the metro rail coaches*

▶ **Alstom Transport SA France and Alstom India Ltd bagged the ₹1471.3cr contract to design, manufacture and supply 168 coaches**

▶ **The first four or nine rakes will be made in Brazil and shipped to Chennai**

▶ **The rest will be built at an upcoming plant near Sri City on TN-AP border**

▶ **The coaches will have automatic train protection to supervise train speeds and apply emergency brakes**

▶ **All coaches will have electronic route map, public address system, passenger emergency intercoms, and driver-operated CCTV**



sion of the real coach but will have all the features of a train. Its length will be only one-third of the actual length of a coach. The prototype is to ascertain whether the contractor is including all the features and components promised in the con-

tract. It will be kept on display," says a senior official of the Chennai Metro Rail.

Metro rail plans to make the coach part of its public awareness campaign being conducted at different platforms and forums across the city.

A coach that will be used on trains will be 21850 mm long, 2938mm in wide and will stand 4048mm tall. But, the prototype will be 8330mm long, 2746mm wide and will stand 3795mm tall.

Metro rail will soon decide where to display the

coach in the city.

Production of the first and second train is progressing at the Alstom factory. The stainless steel shells of six cars are complete. Chennai metro rail is also checking and monitoring quality of the train's manufacturing. Metro officials have conducted several inspections and water leak tests at Brazil. A test to prove structural integrity of car floor under fire was successfully completed in Europe when metro rail officials were present.

Factory acceptance test of train borne communication system was conducted at Singapore recently. Hardware of train's radio, its functioning, operation of CCTV hardware and its feed, working of public address system, emergency group calls and others were checked during the test.

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