

Metro takes shape in Samba land

First Few Coaches Being Made In Brazil, Rest Will Be Manufactured In TN

V Ayyappan | TNN

Chennai: The first set of coaches for the Chennai Metro Rail Ltd (CMRL) is getting ready at Alstom's plant at La Pa in Brazil. The company has also begun groundwork to set up a plant outside Chennai to mass produce coaches.

A consortium of Alstom Transport SA France and Alstom India Ltd bagged the Rs 1471.3 crore contract to design, manufacture and supply 168 coaches for the CMRL in August 2010.

Alstom will supply 42 four-car rakes made of stainless steel. "The first four or nine rakes will be made in Brazil and shipped to Chennai while the rest will be manufactured at a plant that is being set up near Sri City on the Tamil Nadu-Andhra Pradesh border," said a senior official of the Chennai Metro Rail. "Production has started making shell



A shell of the metro rail coach being manufactured at La Pa in Brazil

of the coaches," said chief general manager public relations of Chennai metro Rail S Krishnamoorthy.

The Brazil-made coaches will be shipped here to be used during trial runs on the Koyambedu-St Thomas Mount elevated line by the

end of next year or early 2014. Work on the local plant is progressing fast and a fitting shed has been completed in January.

The company has also started manufacturing battery, traction motor, coupler and gangway. Metro officials

COACH DOPE

- ▶ Lightweight stainless steel coaches will be airconditioned and will have automatic sliding doors
- ▶ Public address system and emergency intercoms for commuters on train
- ▶ Coaches will be disabled-friendly and will have space to park two wheelchairs
- ▶ Regenerative braking to save energy
- ▶ A four-car rake will have a capacity to carry 1,276 commuters, sitting and standing

internal test. Metro officials will inspect the gangway by end of next month.

The airconditioned stainless steel coaches will have automatic sliding doors that will offer easy access to passengers. The trains, which will run at 80km per hour on 25KV power drawn from overhead wires, can reach a maximum speed of 90 kmph. Rakes will also have regenerative braking system to save energy. Metro Rail is planning to operate one train every three minutes to meet peak-hour rush.

Alstom has provided train control and signalling systems for Delhi Metro Rail and is installing them in the Bangalore metro rail.

The company has already sold over 3,000 cars for metro trains worldwide, including cities like Singapore, Shanghai, Paris and Santiago.