

Metro rail resumes work on airport line

New Contractor Expected To Complete Work On GST Road Stretch By 2015

V Ayyappan | TNN

Chennai: After four months of uncertainty over the completion of the OTA-Meenambakkam stretch of metro rail, work has resumed. A new contractor has taken over the work that will give the last mile connectivity to the airport.

The new firm, ITD Cementation from Mumbai, will build the cut-and-cover tunnel under the air funnel by the side of GST Road, a ramp connecting the tunnel, and a few box structures needed for trains. The ₹64.86-crore project is expected to be completed before February 2015.

Metro rail terminated the contract of Lanco Infra-tech which was building the OTA-airport line in August at ₹178.94 crore because the company was lagging be-



L R Shankar

CLEARING THE BACKLOG: Metro rail terminated the contract of Lanco Infracore because the company was lagging behind when 70% of the time was over

hind but 70% of the time had elapsed.

The line has been split into two phases, and fresh tenders were floated so that the investment burden will be less for firms to take up the remaining work. The corporation is in the process of

identifying a contractor for the Meenambakkam-airport stretch.

Officials of metro rail and the new contractor have been inspecting the work site in the last few days to take stock of the status. "They are assessing the worksite to

After splitting the work, the corporation is in the process of identifying a contractor for the stretch between Meenambakkam and airport, where it crosses the approach path of flights that come in to land at the second runway

path of aircraft coming in to land on the second runway. The elevated line from OTA veers into the airport campus and dips below the surface to avoid obstruction to flights. The earlier contractor had excavated the cut-and-cover tunnel meant to take the train below the surface was excavated, but shoring up need to be done," said a senior official of metro rail.

Metro rail is planning to award the contract for the Meenambakkam to airport stretch soon. The work for the entire line was scheduled to be completed by end of last year, and commissioning of the line was scheduled by the end of this year.

Sources said the contractor might get more time to finish the work as work on the elevated stretch of the line.

find out the remaining work that needs to be done. The sites need to be cleaned because they have been abandoned for four months," said a senior official of metro rail.

The OTA-Meenambakkam stretch is a crucial portion of the airport line because it crosses the approach