

New metro system to track glitches

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Chennai: Soon, a system will be in place to track technical glitches on metro trains real-time that will ensure smooth operation of the network. Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) is procuring a Rolling Stock Asset Management System (RSAMS) that has a software and a hardware, which will be installed with the black box on trains to keep track of faults real-time from a remote location to immediately rectify while the train is still running.

The software will also keep track of servicing of trains and the inventory in the depot, thereby reducing human effort and eventually downtime in depots. The system will be connected to a total of 42 trains that will be operated once the phase-1 is completely operational.

A metrorail official said they have invited tenders to supply, install, test and commission RSAMS system that will plan ma-



QUICK RESPONSE: At the depot, the software will download the logs daily before a train chugs in for servicing. CMRL has about four hours to service trains

aintenance of the fleet, remotely access and automatically download on-board data and provide instructions on customised services required for each train. Once implemented, officials said CMRL will be the first to have such a system in place in the country. "Right now, the logs from the black box in the depot are retrieved manually. The new software can do it automatically. It can

also identify faults, when trains are moving, which can be attended immediately without affecting operation of the rest of the network," an official said.

At present, every station employs an engineer, who attends to faults in trains. On an average, officials said it takes about 15 to 20 minutes to reach a train facing an issue. With the new software, an expert can access the logs and

identify the problem, remotely from the operations control centre, much before an engineer reaches the spot. "In most cases, a backup system will take over when a train faces a technical glitch while on operation. We will run the train till the end of the terminal and withdraw it," the official explained.

At the depot, the software will download the logs daily before a train chugs in for servicing. On an average, CMRL has about four hours to service trains overnight. As the fleet expands, it will be time-consuming and tedious for engineers to intervene and look for faults in every train. "In metros in Europe, this software has reduced downtime in a depot by 70%. The system will be handy when we expand our fleet," a metrorail official said.

Metrorail now operates 27 trains daily. Complete phase 1 will have 42 trains and 10 more will be added to the fleet as part of phase-1 extension.