



PRESS RELEASE

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L&T Scores At World Cup Cricket

Wins Rs. 211 Crore Order To Re-build Kensington Oval

Mumbai, August 24, 2005: Even as our 'boys in blue' go through their paces, and millions of Indians debate and deliberate on who should make it to the final eleven, one Indian company has already made its mark in cricket's most keenly awaited contest. Larsen & Toubro Limited (L&T) has won an order valued over Rs. 211 crores from World Cup Barbados Inc (WCB), West Indies, for the reconstruction of the famed Kensington Oval in Barbados. The engineering, construction and technology major will have total responsibility for the construction and execution of the project and ensure that the rigorous specifications of the International Cricket Council (ICC) are met before the first ball is bowled at the historic stadium.

L&T was initially selected by the WCB in February 2005 as the 'Construction Management Consultant'. Its role was primarily to carry out project planning, formulate construction methods, evaluate tenders and finalise domestic sub-contractors during pre-construction period. This project consultancy was successfully completed by L&T at a value of Rs. 1.3 crore. Soon after, the WCB also assigned the construction services to L&T. In August 2005, WCB appointed L&T as 'General Contractor'.

The entire project will be completed by L&T in 16 months (by January 31, 2007). For this purpose, the entire scope of work has been split into several packages, and domestic sub-contractors under the overall responsibility of L&T will execute these packages. In addition, L&T has volunteered to execute the George Challenor Stand, the biggest and the most critical stand on its own with its resources, not only to reduce the risk but also set the example for other sub-contractors to handle the fast-track project.

The project involves demolition of existing structures. Out of the nine stands at the Oval, only two stands will remain physically undisturbed: The Hall & Griffith and Mitchie Hewitt Stands. The scope of work includes shifting and relaying of the cricket pitch and playing arena, renovation of two stands and construction of seven new permanent stands with a combined seating capacity of 11,500 including a temporary stand with a capacity of 15,500, players' pavilion, media centre, multi-purpose hall, administration office, cricket museum with shop, vendors' booth, external concourses, a ticket counter and temporary hospitality and administration facilities as well as external façade and associated MEP works including landscaping and road networks.

The temporary stand will be removed and the redevelopment work on the permanent stand will continue after completion of the final match. This will be completed by October 2007 to provide a legacy (final) permanent seating capacity of 15,000. This will be executed at a cost of Rs. 10 crores. The new stadium when completed in all respects will seat 26,500 persons.

Barring a few stands, where piling is contemplated, most of the stands and buildings will be built on conventional footing foundation. The superstructure mostly consists of cast-in-situ reinforced concrete frames with precast concrete panels and structural steel trusses with sheet roofing and complete with mechanical, electrical, plumbing and sanitary services. 100 tonnes of L&T Formwork materials and about 125 workmen are expected to reach Barbados shortly for executing the work of George Challenor Stand.

WCB's Facilities Development Manager, Miles Weekes, in explaining the selection of L&T said that the firm has an "established reputation for delivering quality projects within short timeframes as well as extensive experience in building structures of the type similar to Kensington Oval and other large concrete structures." The firm, for example, built the 40,000-seater Nehru Stadium in Chennai within 260 days. L&T has also demonstrated its ability in working internationally in Asia, Africa and the Middle East as well as on Indian Ocean Island Nations.

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