

Lanco to start Vizhinjam construction in Dec 2009

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Construction work for the Rs 5,348 crore international container transshipment terminal at Vizhinjam near Thiruvananthapuram is likely to commence in 15 months, Lanco Infratech Ltd director Sanjay Divakar Joshi said on Friday.

“We hope to complete all preparatory works like getting the environmental clearance and detailed feasibility report by then,” he said.

Lanco Infratech is part of the Hyderabad-based Lanco Kondapalli Group selected by the state government to set up the project. “We are in the process of finalising consultants for making the detailed feasibility report,” Joshi said.



Joshi, however, declined to set a timeframe for awarding the feasibility study contract. According to him, first phase of the project, with container handling capacity of 1.3 million TEU (20-foot equivalent) will be completed by 2013.

The proposal for setting up the international transshipment terminal 16 km from Thiruvananthapuram received Union Ministry of Shipping’s approval a few days ago.

Ministry of defence had cleared the proposal last month on the condition that ships of Indian Navy will have open access to the port. The ministry also wanted officials of southern naval command to be on the port’s board. Kerala government had selected Lanco Kondapalli Group-led consortium to implement the Rs 5,348 crore project a few months ago.

Lanco Kondapalli Power Pvt Ltd, Lanco Infrastructure Ltd and Malaysian firm Pembinaan Redzai Bhd are the three companies in the consortium. State government and Lanco Group are currently engaged in finalising the details of forming a special purpose vehicle for implementing the venture, a state government official familiar with the development said. **NW18**