

# L&T Hyd Metro in talks with banks for smart card ticketing

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Hyderabad, Dec 31: Five banks, which include both public and private sectors, have shown interest in L&T Hyderabad Metro Rail (LHMRL) for the smart card-based ticketing system. The automated ticketing system is expected to have features such as contactless smart card-based ticketing, slim automatic gates, payment by cash and credit/debit card, passenger operated ticket vending machine and provision of common ticketing system.

"As the transaction has to go through banks, we are looking for partnership and are in discussions for providing smart cards," Hyderabad Metro Rail managing director N V S Reddy said. The smart card would also have a provision of near field communication (NFC)-based technology to enable the usage of mobile phones as fare media.

Recently, Samsung Data Systems India, a subsidiary of Korean firm Samsung, was awarded a ₹220-crore automatic fare collection (AFC) system for this project. The package involves design, manufacture, supply, installation, testing and

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commissioning of the system. The breakup of revenues in this project is about 50% from passenger fares, 45% from property development and 5% from advertisement and other miscellaneous sources.

Meanwhile, trial runs for the phase one of the elevated metro project is expected to held by July 2014. The company has roped in global engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contractors to start operations in March 2015. The vendors include Hyundai Rotem, Thales Canada, Thales Portugal, Tata Corus Vossloh Keolis France, Samsung Korea, Otis, US. The rail coaches from the Hyundai Rotem consortium are expected to arrive in Hyderabad by May for the proposed trial runs for the first phase of the eight-kilometre stretch.