

State-of-the-art ground station to come up at Antarctica soon

Bharati Station, the 3rd research facility being set up by India, to host the facility

Y. Mallikarjun

HYDERABAD: A state-of-the-art ground station for earth observation satellites which will function in sub-zero temperatures and withstand high wind speeds will be established at Bharati Station, the third research facility being set up by India on the icy continent of Antarctica.

The installation and commissioning of the ground station will be taken up in summer season at Antarctica, starting from December 2012 to March 2013.

The prestigious project for setting up the ground station as also a communication facility has been bagged by the Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL) from the National Remote Sensing

- **ECIL bags prestigious project for setting up the ground station as also a communication facility**

- **Installation, commissioning of the ground station to be taken up in summer at Antarctica**

Centre (NRSC) for a contract value of Rs.50 crore in the face of stiff global competition, according to Y.S. Mayya, Chairman and Managing Director, ECIL.

High-speed satellite raw data would be beamed in real time from Bharati Station to NRSC at Shadnagar, near here, for processing the images once the project starts functioning.

Communication facility

As part of it, a data reception station and another data

communication facility linking Bharati Station and NRSC would be established.

ECIL would install two large antennae of 7.5 diameters each-one for remote sensing and the other for communication. The antennae would be enclosed in a radome to protect them from heavy winds. While one antenna was already fabricated, the second one was expected to be ready shortly.

The antennae would be installed on a platform weighing 50 tonnes and developed



with special steel structure.

The entire equipment would be taken to Cape Town, South Africa, by the end of September 2012 and transported from there to Bharati Station with logistic support from National Centre for Antarctica and Ocean Research (NCAOR), Goa.

In 2007, ECIL also established the communication link between Maitri, the second Indian research station in Antarctica and NCAOR. Among others, research on tectonics and geological structures would be undertaken at Bharati Station by Indian scientists.

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Seaports, airports to get radiation detection equipment

Developed by ECIL, it meets all international specifications

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HYDERABAD: Security at airports, seaports and border check posts will be strengthened with the installation of modern radiation detection equipment developed by Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL).

The equipment consists of a vehicle monitoring system, a portal monitor to check personal baggage/persons and special nuclear material baggage detection system for check-in baggage.

ECIL Chairman and Managing Director Y.S. Mayya told *The Hindu* that a trial demonstration of the equipment was carried out at the Delhi airport.

The company has bagged

- **If any nuclear material is detected, it will send out alarm to local, central control rooms**

- **Initially, 14 airports, including Chennai, Mumbai, Delhi, 13 integrated check-posts will have it**

an initial Rs.70-crore order for installing the equipment by next January at the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (Navi Mumbai), Mumbai Port, Kandla, Goa, New Mangalore, Cochin, Tuticorin, Ennore, Chennai, Visakhapatnam, Paradip and Kolkata ports.

With the ports in the country not having such equipment, containers to be transhipped to the United States were first sent to Singapore or Sri Lanka for get-

ting them scanned, according to ECIL sources.

The equipment will be positioned in 14 airports, including Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and Amritsar. In a phased manner, the remaining airports will be covered. Similarly, it is proposed to be installed at 13 integrated border check-posts.

The check posts at Wagah-Attari and on either side of the India-Nepal border will have the equipment in the

near future.

The sources said the equipment met all international specifications. In case of detection of any radioactive material, it would set off an alarm and send audio and visual alarms to local and central control rooms linked to the system.

The company has implemented and maintained over 400 security projects for vital installations in the country. Among its major projects were the Integrated Security Systems for the 2010 Commonwealth Games and Delhi City Police Surveillance.

Mr. Mayya said that the company was looking to install similar integrated security systems in Mumbai and other cities.

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