

NHSRCL signs contract to construct first 7-km undersea rail tunnel

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The National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) signed a contract with M/s Afcons Infrastructure Limited on Thursday for the construction of a 21 km long tunnel. The major part of this contract is to construct India's first 7-km long undersea rail tunnel in Maharashtra for Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor under the MAHSR C-2 package.

As per the official information, the technical bids of this tender were opened on February 9, 2023, and financial bids were opened on April 6, 2023.

Talking about this contract, Managing Director of NHSRCL, Rajendra Prasad said, "Construction of 21 km of the tunnel is one of the most challenging contracts of Mumbai- Ahmedabad HSR corridor, which includes the construction of country's first twin-track undersea rail tunnel of 7 km at Thane Creek. Three Tunnel Boring Machines and New Austrian Tunnelling Method will be used for the construction of this tunnel."

It is pertinent to note that the 21 km long tunnel will be between the underground station at Bandra-Kurla Complex and Shilphata in the State of

Maharashtra. The 7 km (approx.) undersea tunnel at Thane Creek (Intertidal Zone) will be the First undersea rail tunnel to come up in the country.

The tunnel will be a single tube tunnel to accommodate twin tracks for both-up and down track. 39 equipment rooms at 37 locations will also be constructed adjoining tunnel locations as part of the package. To construct this tunnel, TBMs with a cutter head of 13.1 Meter diameter will be used.

Usually, 5-6 Meter Diameter cutter heads are used for urban tunnels used in MRTS - Metro system. Three Tunnel Boring Machines will be used to make about 16 km of the tunnel portion and the remaining 5 km will be through New Austrian Tunnelling Method (NATM).