

Tata, Adani & NTPC Among 9 Cos Bidding for Odisha UMPP

Private firms had initially raised doubts on new bidding norms

OUR BUREAU
NEW DELHI

Tata Power, Adani Power and NTPC are among nine power firms in the fray for the new ₹25,000 crore ultra mega power project at Bedhabahal in Odisha, signaling a satisfactory response to the giant project after private companies expressed grave doubts about bidding norms, officials said.

The nine companies including Larsen & Toubro, Jindal Power, JSW Energy and Sterlite Energy have submitted technical bids for the project, an official in Power Finance Corporation said.

CLP India is the only foreign company in the race while state-run hydroelectricity company NHPC has sought to enter thermal power generation, the official said. Monday was the last day to submit technical bids for the 4,000-MW project.

"Response to the Odisha ultra mega power project is good despite the tough market conditions and private companies' initial resistance to the new bidding norms," the official said.

Private power companies had objected to the new bidding norms for ultra mega power projects that do not give companies ownership of land and coalmines. The companies had opposed clauses related to sourcing made-in India equipment, cap on fuel charges and intrusive role of independent engineers.

Some companies like Essar Power and Lanco Infratech have not participated in the bidding. State-run National Aluminium Company also did not submit its bid despite showing keen interest in the project. Debashish Mishra, se-

More Power

Co that have submitted technical bids for Odisha UMPP

- NTPC
- NHPC
- Tata Power
- Adani Power
- L&T
- Jindal Power
- JSW Energy
- Sterlite Energy
- CLP India

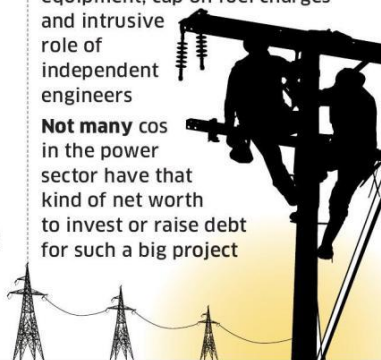
Cos that were expected to bid but did not bid

- NALCO
- Essar Power

Pvt power cos had objected to the new bidding norms for UMPP that do not give cos ownership of land and coalmines

Cos had opposed clauses related to sourcing made-in India equipment, cap on fuel charges and intrusive role of independent engineers

Not many cos in the power sector have that kind of net worth to invest or raise debt for such a big project



PSUs are expected to take the lead this time

nior director of Deloitte in India, said serious players have evinced interest but the firms might face challenges when it comes to raising finance for the ultra mega power project.

"Not many companies in the power sector have that kind of net worth to invest or raise debt for such a big project. Also, bankers have learnt their lessons the hard way and will not allow irrational bids. So, public sector companies — NTPC and NHPC — are expected to take lead this time," Mishra said. Power Finance Corp, which

is the the bid co-ordinator for ultra mega power projects, is expected to call tariff quotations from qualifying companies in December.

Bid submission for another ultra mega power project which is coming up at Cheyyur in Tamil Nadu will close on November 28.

The Odisha project is proposed to be fired on domestic coal, while the Tamil Nadu plant will run on imported coal.

The government has so far awarded four ultra mega power projects.

