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# 7 firms bid for second Metro line

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** With news that the Rs 8,400-crore second Metro line will soon be cleared by the Centre, seven consortia—including the rival Ambani brothers as well as Tata Power Company—will soon be competing for the contract for building the line stretching from Charkop-Bandra-Mankhurd.

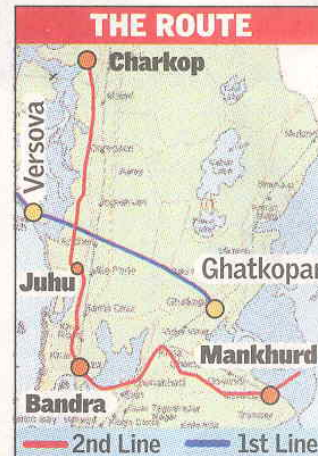
Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) joint commissioner Milind Mhaiskar said clearance from the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) at the Centre was expected in the next three weeks and the work for awarding the bid could then begin.

The seven consortia, which have been shortlisted, are Tata Power Company with Pioneer Infratech and Mitsubishi Corporation of Japan, the Anil Ambani-led Reliance Energy Ltd with SNC Lavalin Inc of Canada and Mukesh Ambani's Re-

liance Communication Ltd with Siemens of Germany and Gammon India Limited.

The other groups include Larson & Toubro India with IDPL and GE Indian Industrial. Well-known infrastructure development finance company IL&FS (India) has tied up with Punjilloyd Ltd, Transportation Network Ltd and Soma Enterprise of Hyderabad. GVK Power and Infrastructure India has tied up with Bombardier Transportation of the United States and Yeoh Tiong Lay of Malaysia.

MMRDA officials said the DEA was currently scrutinising the projects' draft agreement which the government would sign with the select-



ed company that would construct and run the line having 27 stations.

Work on the Rs 2,026-crore first Metro Versova-Andheri-Ghatkopar line has already started with Mumbai Metro One, which is a company jointly owned by Reliance Energy Ltd, MMRDA and Veolia, a French multinational beginning work on the ground.

Meanwhile 278 shopkeepers and residents, who will be displaced by the Metro line, have formed a Metro Railway Project-Affected Persons Action Committee and are seeking justice. The shopkeepers, concentrated mainly near Andheri railway station, are concerned about being displaced by the project.