

GTL forays into power T&D projects

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Telecom equipment manufacturer GTL Ltd is targeting the power sector, which is expected to see investments to the tune of Rs 9,00,000 crore by 2012. The company is starting with power distribution and transmission projects. It is looking to bag projects in Maharashtra and Gujarat over the next two years.

Charudatta Naik, whole-time director and COO, GTL, said, "We have been in the telecom sector for a long time, but, we expect the demand for telecom towers to decline going ahead. We, therefore, wanted to foray into power, where the required expertise is quite similar to what we have been doing, which is project management, civil and electric work." GTL wants to enter power generation projects in the next 5 years, he added.

The company recently bagged contracts with Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Co Ltd

(MSEDCL) worth Rs 324 crore. These include construction, testing and commissioning of sub-transmission lines, distribution lines, power transformers, renovation and modernisation works in Maharashtra.

The MSEDCL project was worth Rs 4,000 crore, of GTL bid for Rs 2,400 crore was bid. The remaining was held back due to technical reasons. "We will be bidding for the remaining Rs 1,600 crore project with MSEDCL. Also, we plan to bid for projects worth Rs 600-900 crore in the next 3-4 months," Naik said.

Talking about projects in Gujarat, Naik said that the company is currently exploring opportunities there. "Gujarat will have to look harder into its distribution and transmission losses and we are looking forward to new opportunities there." GTL plans to enter the energy-managed services space.

The GTL stock on the BSE closed marginally up by 0.53% at Rs 266.05 on Friday.