



Odisha to offer land for downstream project

The Odisha government is on course to offering 188 acres of land to National Aluminium Company (NALCO), for its proposed 5,500-crore downstream complex at Kamkhyanagar in Dhenkanal district of the state.

Finalization of land requirements and other details are expected by the end of February.

This is billed to be one of the largest investments in the metal downstream space in Eastern region and in Odisha as well.

According to government sources, NALCO, in its proposal, has sought the land in Markata and BS Sasan areas of Kamkhyanagar. Based on the report, the Industrial Promotion and Investment Corporation of Odisha Ltd (IPICOL) has engaged Engineers India Ltd (a Navratna PSU providing engineering



and related technical services) to do the land assessment and submit a report on the technical and other requirements.

The report is expected next month, post which IPICOL will make its recommendations. NALCO will have to purchase the land from the Odisha Industrial Development Corporation, government sources said.

Clearances from different approval committees of the state have been received between September and November last year.

According to Sanjeev Chopra, Principal Secretary, Industries Department, Government of Odisha, the state government is “actively promoting” investments in the downstream metal business across steel, stainless steel and aluminium sectors.

“The High Level Clearance Authority (headed by the Chief Minister, Naveen Patnaik) has already approved the project and land assessment is underway. This will be followed by land acquisition. Nalco’s proposed downstream unit is expected to generate over 1,700 jobs and also give a fillip to establishment of ancillary units around it,” Chopra told.

It billed as one of the largest investments in the metal space and the project is likely to generate 1,700 jobs in the sector. ■

Trafigura JV to build \$2.8 billion smelting complex



A joint venture between Trafigura group and a Saudi Arabian company will commence with its project, building a major copper, zinc and lead smelter complex in Saudi Arabia. The proposed capacity of the complex will be 400,000 tonnes per year of copper, 200,000 tpy of zinc and 55,000 tpy of lead, which will be completed by next year.

The project’s estimated cost is \$2.8 billion and will be located in Ras Al-Khair Mineral City, named SmeltCo. will be jointly developed and equally owned by Trafigura and Modern Mining Holding - an affiliate of the Riyadh-based Modern Industrial Investment Holding Group.

Its copper production capacity will be similar to some of the world’s major copper smelters, including Sterlite Copper’s Tuticorin 400,000 tpy smelter in India that has been cleared to resume production, and Chinalco’s Ningde 400,000 tpy project due to commence output in August.

No timetable has been

disclosed on the commencement of the project. Trafigura declined to comment when approached by Fastmarkets.

The project was first announced in October, attracting wide market attention to Saudi Arabia’s ambition to produce base metals. Which, itself is the home to major copper mining assets, including Jabal Sayid mine co-owned by Barrick and Ma’aden.

This new project construction of the copper smelter could mean a higher demand for copper concentrates the moment it starts its operations. Market participants have already been anticipated a tighter copper concentrate supply in 2020. ■

This section is a compilation from various company press releases, business dailies, trade publications and Industry Websites.