

Reliance Infrastructure's Mega Nuclear foray

- An exclusive interview with Mr. Lalit Jalan, CEO, Reliance Infrastructure

Shri Lalit Jalan, CEO Director Reliance Infrastructure Limited, is the youngest CEO at Reliance, a product of 'Wharton School', Pennsylvania and is an alumnus of IIT Kanpur. He was awarded the Distinguished Alumni Award from IIT, Kanpur. He was also chosen as one of the 15 achievers from the IIT system. These 15 achievers were showcased as IIT Spirit during the opening ceremony of 50th anniversary celebration (PAN IIT 50) organized at Silicon Valley, California in January 2003. Being responsible for the entire distribution, transmission, trading and shared services of the Company and its affiliates in Mumbai, Delhi and Orissa covering 6 million customers, he is touted to be the poster boy of distribution reforms. He is simple, ebullient and filled with eagerness to share his erudition without qualms. Upon being approached for an interview, he readily obliged and shared his views on crucial area of 'Civilian Nuclear Energy' and the part that Reliance Infrastructures is to play in the about to be opened up area.

Mr. Jalan, please tell us about your founder Mr. Dhirubhai Ambani's vision and mission of involving 'Reliance' into Global Infrastructure Projects.

Our visionary founder late Shri Dhirubhai Ambani, believed that India's social and economic independence could only come from creating quality infrastructure. Only then would millions of ordinary Indians be empowered to use their extraordinary skills in exploiting the opportunities that exist in our great nation.

Our journey from Energy to Infrastructure has been inspired by Dhirubhai's foresight and vision.



Mr. Lalit Jalan, CEO, Reliance Infrastructure

We understand RIL's eagerness in executing 'Civilian Nuclear Energy EPC Contacts'. What is RIL's scope amidst competing global and US firms?

Reliance Infrastructure is a reputed EPC contractor in the Hydro and Thermal power sector carrying out all the engineering, procurement, construction and commissioning activities of the power projects. The financial strength, engineering capability and project management skills of the company will be utilized to foray into the nuclear power sector. Our initial plan is to forge a joint venture with leading and reputed international nuclear consultancy firm and service all the activities of the nuclear island.

What areas of 'Nuclear Energy', is 'Reliance Infrastructure' looking to get involved into?

In the beginning it will concentrate on the construction of nuclear plants of Reliance Power and other private / public sector generating utilities. But in future, the company has plans to play significant

EPC - Face to Face

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role in the activities pertaining to the front and rear end of the fuel cycle including mining, fuel fabrication, spent fuel handling etc.

Mr. Jalan, what is your opinion on concerns on privatization of 'Nuclear Energy', particularly with regard to safety and security?

Private participation in nuclear power should be seen as compulsion for country to take full advantage of the recently allowed flexibility in accessing global nuclear market. Along with state-owned companies, the private utilities can infuse large investments as required by the capital intensive nuclear power sector and contribute significantly in rapid addition of nuclear capacities.

As far as the safety and security concerns are concerned, these can be tackled in the same way as done in countries like USA, Germany, Japan, Belgium where all the nuclear plants are privately owned. For this, necessary Governmental control and supervision will be required in strategic and sensitive areas. A national nuclear policy is also required to cover such aspects.

On a global scale, what opportunities await Indian firms in the private player participation of 'Civilian Nuclear Energy'?

In view of nuclear renaissance expected at a global level, the Indian companies involved in engineering, training, manufacturing, construction and servicing will not like to invest just for a limited opportunities in India. These will like to expand their presence globally on their own or in joint ventures with global companies.

Mr. Jalan, we understand that Reliance Infrastructure is to undertake building Roads, SEZs and Airport infrastructure. Tell us about its implications to the company.

We are setting 9 infrastructure projects with total investment of Rs 16,000 crores over next 7 years.

There are 5 road projects with total outlay of Rs. 3,100 crs. Of these 5 road projects, 2 will be up & running by end of this year and the remaining 3 will

be commissioned by July 2010.

There are two metro rail projects in Mumbai & Delhi with total investment of Rs 4,900 cr. They will be operational from Sep 2010 and July 2010 respectively.

Specialty real estate project in Hyderabad need an investment of Rs 7,000 cr over next 7 years SEZ at DAKC is being developed at project cost of Rs 1,000 cr.

Reliance Infra is committed to implement large infrastructure projects in Roads, Metros, Specialty Real Estate, Airports, etc. It will continue to be a focused player and should be amongst the largest private player in the sector.

Thank you Mr. Jalan, for your time and insights, with so much about to happen in the Indian Infrastructure scenario, as a prime player and a market leader, we hope to see your firm's activities increasing in frequency. □

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