



# Army soft-pedals light tank of DRDO-L&T for China border

AJAI SHUKLA  
New Delhi, 11 January

Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani flagged off on Monday the 91st self-propelled howitzer that Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has built at its Armoured System Complex (ASC) in Hazira. L&T is looking to complete delivery of its contract for 100K-9 Vajra tracked guns by February, well ahead of schedule.

After February, however, once the Army has been handed over the last of these 155 mm, 52-calibre howitzers — essentially artillery guns mounted on a tank chassis for mobility — the ASC Hazira production line will fall silent. Then the expertise accumulated by L&T while building 100 K-9 Vajra guns will start dissipating.

This is because the Army is soft-pedalling the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) proposal to manufacture in L&T's facilities a line of at least 500 light tanks, which will be powered by the same 28-tonne chassis, hull and engine that powers the K-9 Vajra.

Instead of the K-9 Vajra artillery turret that mounts a heavy, 155 mm gun that shoots over the horizon, the light tank will have a smaller turret with a direct firing, high-pressure 105 mm gun, ready-built by Belgian firm John Cockerill.

The DRDO is offering the light tank for the Army to use in high-altitude areas such as Ladakh, where the Chinese ingress last May has already forced the deployment of two additional divisions (36,000 troops) and the impending move of another two divisions that are being diverted from a mechanised strike corps.

To supplement the two armoured regiments (each with 45 tanks) that already defended the China border, the Army has additionally raised two independent armoured brigades over the preceding decade — one for operations in Ladakh and the other for Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. Each of these brigades fields 175-200 tanks.



Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani flags off self-propelled howitzer built by L&T at its Armoured System Complex in Hazira, on Monday

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All these 500-odd tanks are currently 42-tonne T-72Ms, which are too large and heavy to move and operate in the narrow, twisty roads and low-weight-bearing bridges that are found in the Himalayas.

Nor are the T-72 tank engines customised to operating in the oxygen-depleted atmosphere at those altitudes.

That is why the Army has still not backed the DRDO's efforts to replace the T-72s with a light tank that is custom-built for India's rugged borders. The DRDO is offering a 30-35-tonne light tank that it says will be a match for what the Army faces — China's new Type-15 light tank, also referred to as the ZTQ-15. Built by Chinese public sector firm Norinco, the Type-15 has been deployed over the past year on the Tibetan plateau opposite Eastern Ladakh.

DRDO sources say the indigenous light tank will be at least a match for the Type-15. Engineers of the Central Vehicle R&D Establishment, the Chennai-based DRDO laboratory that designs and develops armoured vehicles, say they are working with L&T to reduce the weight of the 28-tonne Vajra chassis by 3-4 tonnes, which

will bring the overall weight of the light tank to about 30 tonnes.

That will allow the Vajra's 1,000-horsepower German MTU engine and Allison transmission to create sufficient mobility for the light tank, even at high altitudes where engines deliver less than 80 per cent of the power they would at sea level.

The light tank's 105 mm gun will fire armour piercing ammunition to destroy enemy tanks, and high-explosive shells against unarmoured targets. Each light tank will have a fully-stabilised 12.7-mm heavy machine gun and a co-axial 7.62-mm medium machine gun.

In addition, the turret will have a retractable missile launcher that can fire anti-tank guided missiles to destroy targets out to 2.5 km.

A major hurdle to the tank's design is that the Army has not yet shared with the DRDO its notion of what design features and performance it would like. This is usually shared in a document called the 'preliminary staff qualitative requirements'. Without this, the DRDO's designers are groping in the dark.

## Genus Power Infrastructures Limited

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### NOTICE

Pursuant to Regulation 29 & 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the Company has given a notice to the stock exchanges on which the Company will be listed on Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 12:30 pm, to inform, correct and approve the unaudited financial results (interim and consolidated) for the quarter and nine months ended December 31, 2020. The Trading Window is closed from January 1, 2021 till 48 hours after the said financial results become generally available information. The said information may be accessed on the Company's website i.e., www.genuspower.com and may also be accessed on the Stock Exchanges' website at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com.

Place : Jhajjar  
Dated : January 11, 2021

Sd/-  
Ankit Jhajjari  
Company Secretary

## BEFORE THE MONILE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL, AMARAVATHI BENCH AT HYDERABAD C.P.CAT/11/230 /AMR / 2020

**Between:**  
People Combine Initiatives Pvt. Ltd.  
.....Petronet Gas Transfer Company  
People Combine Solutions Pvt. Ltd.  
.....Petronet Gas Transfer Company  
People Combine Knowledge Solutions Pvt. Ltd.  
.....Petronet Gas Transfer Company  
People Combine Business Initiatives Pvt. Ltd.  
.....Petronet Gas Transfer Company

**APPROVAL OF SCHEME OF ANALGAMATION**  
**PEOPLE COMBINE EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES PRIVATE LIMITED/JINT  
TRANSFERS COMPANY / PEOPLE COMBINE SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED/JINT TRANSFERS COMPANY / PETRONET GAS TRANSFER COMPANY / PEOPLE COMBINE KNOWLEDGE SOLUTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED/JINT TRANSFERS COMPANY / WITH PEOPLE COMBINE BUSINESS INITIATIVES PRIVATE LIMITED / TRANSFER COMPANY AND  
THEIR RESPECTIVE SHAREHOLDERS**

Taken note that a Joint Company Petition C.P. (C.A) No. 11/230/AMR/2020 under section 239 to 232 of the Companies Act, 2013 was presented by the Petitioner Companies named above on 24/01/2020 before the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal (Amritavati Bench at Hyderabad) for the Scheme of amalgamation of People Combine Educational Initiatives Pvt. Ltd (First Transfer Company), People Combine Solutions Pvt. Ltd (Second Transfer Company), People Combine Knowledge Solutions Pvt. Ltd (Third Transfer Company) and People Combine Business Initiatives Pvt. Ltd (Fourth Transfer Company) and their respective shareholders (as stated in the 'Scheme'). The said joint Company Petition was fixed for final hearing before the Hon'ble NCLT on 31/03/2020 (Upon receipt of the documents, reports and other documents on record before Hon'ble NCLT vide its order dated 08/12/2019) has appeared before the Scheme.

Advocate for the Petitioners  
Place: Visakhapatnam & Hyderabad  
Date: January 12, 2021

## एसजेवीएन लिमिटेड SJVN Limited

(एसजे एन लिमिटेड सेक्युरिटी राइट्स वर्क्स)

(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of H.P.)

CIN No. L40101HP1986GCI008409

**Notice Inviting Expression of Interest (EOI) for Debt Financing for 2100 MW Hydro Electric Project Stage-I in Himachal Pradesh**. The detailed notice inviting EOI is available on the website: [www.sjvn.nic.in](http://www.sjvn.nic.in) & [www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in) and can be downloaded from 12.01.2021, 11.00 Hrs. to 31.03.2021 12.00 Hrs. Applicants are requested to remain updated through above mentioned websites for any clarification or notification concerned with this EOI as no further information will be published in respect of this notice through any other media.

Last date for submission of EOIs : 31.01.2021 at 15.00 Hrs.

Date & Time of opening of EOIs : will be informed Separately

Tender Rights : SJVN Limited reserves the right to reject any or all EOIs in full without assigning any reason.

For & on behalf of SJVN Limited

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