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16 firms in race for ₹4,000-crore eastern freight corridor project

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New Delhi, Feb 14: Sixteen companies, Indian and foreign, have made it to the pre-qualification bid process for the civil structure and track work contract for the Bhaupur-Mughalsarai section (400 route km) of the 1,839-km Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor project.

The project cost is expected to be Rs 4,000 crore. The railways is building the stretch on its own equity and rest of the corridor is being funded by World Bank.

There has been huge response and the contractors/firms from all over the world are competing in the bid process. Those qualified to submit their bids are from Spain, Turkey, Korea, Taiwan, China, Mexico, Brazil, Russia and UK apart from India.

The companies shortlisted include Gammon-Yuksel (JV), Posco-PNC (JV), China Railway Bureau Group Corporation, Essar-KEC-Sacyr Consortium, AG-Afcons (JV) and PEL-BSCPL-CGS (JV). The World Bank has agreed to part finance the project from Mughalsarai to Ludhiana, which has been divided into 3 phases. The total in-principle loan commitment is \$ 2.725 billion, out of which the loan for the first phase to the tune of \$ 975 million was sanctioned in May, 2011, and the loan agreement was signed in October, 2011. The loan for the second phase is expected to be of the order of \$1,100 million and is expected to be signed in June 2014. The deadline for the completion of project is 2017.