



रेलटेल कॉर्पोरेशन ऑफ़ इंडिया लिमिटेड (भारत सरकार का उपक्रम)

RailTel Corporation of India Ltd. (A government of India Enterprise)

www.railtelindia.com

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Press Release

RailTel to Create Several “Edge Data Centres” In the Railway Premises/Land across 102 Locations Especially Tier-2 and Tier-3 Towns in the country jointly with partners

The move will accelerate the pace of digital transformation and efficient digital delivery in rural and semi-rural areas

The major benefit of an Edge Data Centre is the quick delivery of services with minimal latency

This activity to entail an investment opportunity of around Rs. 500+ Crore under PPP Model

The process to establish these Edge Data Centres has been set in motion with the floating of Expression of Interest by RailTel inviting industry to be partner

RailTel is a Central Government PSU of Ministry of Railways providing Information and Communications Technology (ICT) services and is one of the largest neutral telecom infrastructure providers in the country owning a Pan-India Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) network of 60000+RKM (and growing) along Railway track. The OFC network covers important towns & cities of the country and several rural areas.

With a view to accelerate the pace of digital transformation and efficient digital delivery in rural and semi-urban areas, RailTel has decided to create several “**Edge Data Centres**” in such areas in different parts of the country jointly with partners. This new initiative of RailTel will give boost to Indian Government’s mission of Digital India.

Edge data centres are small data centres located at the edge of the network, where they are closer to end users and devices. Having such kind of facility at the edge would enable faster performance and lower latency as organizations will not have to move the data to far-flung data centres to process it. Latency has always been a problem for data centre managers, but in recent times it has become a critical concern in view of wide range of next-generation applications like big data, the Internet of Things, Cloud and streaming services, and other technology trends.

RailTel is seeking partners to establish such Edge Data Centres in the Railway premises/land across 102 locations especially Tier-2 and Tier-3 towns. The prospective Business Associates/partners should be a company registered in India. This activity will entail an investment opportunity of around Rs. 500+ Crore. The process to establish these Edge Data Centres has been set in motion with the floating of Expression of Interest (EOI) inviting industry to partner in this exercise.



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Under the proposed plan, Initial capacity of envisioned Edge Data Centre at each location can be of around 20 Racks (5 KW to 10 KW each). However, Edge Data Centre with variable rack and power density can be explored as per the requirement and availability of space, power and other factors at individual locations.

RailTel has around 9300+ Points of Presence (PoPs) and extensive optical fiber connectivity along the Railway Tracks and across the premises of Indian Railways, which makes the basic infrastructure readily available for the setting up of such Edge Data Centres. RailTel shall have the responsibility of providing the telecom/internet connectivity to the Selected Business Associate.

Data Centre use for Railway critical application like LTE, TCAS etc. shall be met on priority. Service offerings based on market requirement including health, education, skill development sectors will be jointly devised with selected partners, which may cover one or more basic service platform e.g. Rack Colocation, Managed Colocation, Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS), Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS), (categories of cloud computing services) etc.

Edge Data Centres will enable RailTel to deploy IT infrastructure for 'caching' of popular contents to improve experience of RailWire broadband customers as cached contents will then be served locally instead of travelling long stretch of Network. Similarly IT infrastructure for 'peering' with content players can also be deployed in these Edge Data Centres which would improve cost economics for delivery of contents (eg. Youtube, Hotstar etc.)

These centres will enable RailTel to improve resiliency of network and help to improve customer experience of "RailWire" broadband services of RailTel. The current subscriber base of RailTel is around 4.4 Lakhs and it will further rise sharply with the coming up of such Edge Data Centre.

RailTel already has 2 UPTIME USA certified Data Centres-one in National Capital Region (Gurugram) and other Secunderabad.

Talking about it Sh. Puneet Chawla, CMD, RailTel said, "With the help of such localized Data Centres, rural areas can be served with low latency applications related to digital skills, financial inclusions, digital literacy etc. The Edge Date Centres will provide better experience and aid in adoption of digital services by the population of these areas and thus contributing to digital economy. The move will be another important steps towards the path of digital transformation. It will also provide an opportunity to local professionally skilled manpower to participate in this transformation".

About RailTel

RailTel a "Mini Ratna (Category-I)" Central Public Sector Enterprise, is one of the largest neutral telecom infrastructure providers in the country owning a Pan-India optic fiber network covering several towns & cities and rural areas of the country. Along with a strong a reliable network of more than 60000 RKM of Optic fibr, RailTel has two tier III data centers as well. With its Pan India high-capacity network, RailTel is working towards creating a knowledge society at various fronts and has been selected for



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implementation of various mission-mode projects for the Government of India in the telecom field. RailTel offers a bundle of services like, MPLS-VPN, Telepresence, Leased line, Tower Co-location, Data center services etc. RailTel is also working with the Indian Railways to transform railway stations into digital hub by providing public Wi-Fi at railway stations across the country.

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